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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—The Senate has been voting the estimates for the current year. On Monday the ecclesiastical estimates were reached, and in spite of the decrease of strength on the Right, the stipend of the Archbishop of Paris was raised from £600 to its former amount of £1,800 without a division, and the vote for the Chapter of St. Denis restored by 128 to 120. M. de Pressensé spoke against the reductions made by the Chamber. Reactionary amendments, however, increasing the sum originally proposed by the Government, were defeated by majorities of two to one. In the Chamber the corn duty discussion was continued.

The Municipal Council of Paris on Wednesday adopted by 52 votes to 2 a motion condemning expeditions to remote places, and denouncing the colonial policy of the Ministry. They afterwards passed a unanimous vote expressing their sympathy with the soldiers and sailors engaged in the Tonquin expedition.

On Sunday afternoon about 4,000 persons met at the Tivoli Vauxhall to receive an address from the British Workmen's Peace Association, and vote a response on behalf of the working men of France. The delegation of the association consisted of Mr. Burt, M.P., its president; Mr. Howard Evans, chairman of the council; Mr. W. R. Cremer, secretary; and seven members. On the platform, besides the chairman (Deputy Maret), were five other deputies. M. Clémenceau was unable to attend. The proceedings were considerably disturbed by a small but very noisy band of Anarchists. Mr. Burt presented the address, in which the miners' association expressed the growing anxiety felt by its members at "the inflammatory language employed by journalists in regard to the Egyptian, Tonquin, and other expeditions, as the evil spirit which such language evokes has been too often the prelude to active strife among nations." A resolution protesting against all policy of war and conquest, and assuring the working classes of England that their brethren of France would use every effort to draw closer the ties of friendship between the working classes of all countries, was pronounced inadequate, and another submitted by the Anarchists, containing the customary denunciations of the *bourgeoisie*, and pledging the meeting to fight against all tyrants, to abolish all national frontiers, and to sweep away all exploiters. At length it was agreed to submit the two together, and the combination having been declared carried, the assembly broke up, amid cries of "*A bas les Exploiteurs! Vive la Révolution Sociale! Vive l'Internationale! Vive l'Anarchie!*"

ITALY.—The King has given £880 to the sufferers from the recent avalanches.

The third Red Sea expedition sailed from Naples on Monday, and consisted of 1,550 men, with 62 officers, 250 mules and horses, with various stores, under the command of Lieutenant-General Ricci, chief of the staff, and one of the most distinguished officers of the Army. A fourth expedition is said to be in preparation.

Yesterday week, the seventh anniversary of his election, the Pope received the congratulations of the Cardinals, Archbishops, and Bishops in Rome and other dignitaries in his private library. It is said that the Archbishop of Rheims is to be created a Cardinal at the approaching consistory. On Monday his Holiness received the French industrial pilgrims, who represent establishments employing some 500,000 men. Mr. Davitt is said to have left Rome without having been received either by the Pope or Cardinal Jacobini.

AMERICA.—The dedication of the recently completed Washington monument took place at Washington on Saturday. About 6,000 soldiers, drawn from all parts of the country, assembled, but the temperature (nearly zero) prevented the people from gathering in large numbers at the monument. Senator Sherman delivered the opening address, telling the audience to keep their hats on. The spectators were meanwhile clapping their hands and stamping their feet in order to keep themselves warm. The marine band also played a selection of music, but the noise made by the thousands who were stamping their feet to keep them warm rendered the proceedings almost inaudible, the steam coming from the speakers' mouths being the main evidence that the ceremony was being carried out. A Masonic ceremony dedicating the monument followed, but the cold compelled a curtailment of everything, and the audience quickly scattered when the services were ended. The troops then marched down Pennsylvania-avenue to the Capitol, where the President reviewed them. Congress afterwards met in the House, where an oration written by Mr. R. C. Winthrop was read, and an address was also delivered by Mr. J. W. Daniel (Virginia). An exhibition of fireworks at the monument in the evening closed the ceremonies.

GERMANY.—Handel was born at Halle on Feb. 23, 1685. There was a bi-centennial celebration in that town this week, which began on the Sunday with the performance of the *Dettingen Te Deum* in St. Mary's Church, and in the evening *Hercules* (1744), the choruses being given by the Halle New Singing Academy. On Monday an artistic iron railing round the Handel Monument was formally handed over to the municipality. This monument stands in the market-place before the old Townhall, nearly facing the Church of Our Lady, in which Handel, as a boy, so often practised on the organ. It consists of a high granite pedestal, on which stands the bronze statue, ten feet high, by Professor Heidel, of Berlin. The figure stands before a music-desk, with a rilievo of St. Cecilia, which bears the features of Jenny Lind. The date, "1741," on the pedestal marks the year of the first performance of the *Messiah* at Dublin. One or two choruses from *Judas Maccabæus* having been sung, the oration of the day was delivered, and followed by the performance of the march from *Joshua* by the wind instruments. At six o'clock a grand performance of the *Messiah* was given, without any omission, according to the arrangement of Mozart and Franz, with Herren Betz and Alvary, of the Berlin and Weimar Operas, Fräulein Spies, of Wiesbaden, and Madame Otto, of Dresden, as principal soloists. The orchestra comprised the band of the celebrated Gewandhaus concerts, of Leipzig, together with that of the city of Halle.

The Berlin Conference held its final sitting on Thursday, under the presidency of Prince Bismarck, who expressed his satisfaction that the Conference had arrived at an agreement, and gave a *résumé* of the various points in the Conference programme which had been brought to a successful issue. Prince Bismarck also paid a special tribute to the conciliatory spirit displayed by the Plenipotentiaries, and concluded by thanking the Plenipotentiaries in the name of the Emperor. The King of the Belgians has addressed to Prince Bismarck a letter expressing his thanks for the great services which, by summoning the Berlin Conference, he has rendered to the cause of African civilisation.

RUSSIA.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* prints a communication from Mdme. de Novikoff, dated St. Petersburg, Thursday, giving an account of a conversation she had had with a high authority on foreign policy. Russia, he said, did not want Herat, and could not get it. It was true that a forward movement had just been made, but the reason was that—

"Unfortunately, Sir P. Lumsden has taken with him two or three young fellows who speak Russian, and who imagine that they serve their cause, or the cause of England, by inciting the Afghans to occupy positions far in advance of their own frontier. The Afghans, acting under the instigation of these young Englishmen, occupied a position at Penjdeh, in territory which had never been under Afghan rule, either in the time of Shere Ali or of Dost Mohamed, and which all the travellers, and they are very few, who have visited that region, from the Englishman Abbot downward, describe as belonging to the Khanate of Khiva. Our military people, hearing and seeing everywhere evidences of English hostility and English intrigues, immediately responded to the Afghan advance by a further advance on their own account, and they went further than was either prudent or useful. Thus a mistake has been made on both sides; but the initiative has been taken by the English, or by those among them who pushed the Afghans forward to go where no Afghans had ever been before—into the midst of a purely Turkoman population, within the dominions formerly belonging to the Khan of Khiva."

The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, continuing his revelations with regard to Russian policy, says the official denial his statements have received obliges him to make some further disclosures:—

"For some months past private agents of the Russian Government have been negotiating with the Ameer of Afghanistan. They have offered him an alliance for himself, his dynasty, and their descendants, in virtue of which Russia would be at liberty to establish a protectorate over Herat, while the Afghans would receive occult assistance from Russia to extend their frontiers in a direction where they would find their co-religionaries, the Sunnite Moslems, but which is for the time being an integral portion of the dominions of the Empress of India. Abdurrahman Khan, who, it may be said, was reared in a Russian hothouse, has essentially Russian instincts, and has never forgotten that he still holds the rank of colonel in the Russian Army. He has lent a not unwilling ear to Russia's proposals, but negotiations between him and the Czar's emissaries were still pending when the first warning that Herat was in danger appeared in your columns."

It is announced from St. Petersburg that Prince Dondukoff Korsakoff, Governor of the Caucasus, has applied for permission to despatch a scientific expedition to the Russian Turkoman territory and those portions of the Persian province of Khorassan adjoining it.

CHINA.—The *Shanghai Courier* reports that the Governor of the Imperial Palace at Pekin, Prince Kuong, sent not long since a deputation to the temple of the God of War, requesting to be informed how long the war with France would last. Very valuable presents were sent for the God and the priests. Some of the presents were placed on the altar, the deputation prostrated themselves, and through their chief humbly supplicated the divinity to give them the desired information. Then they withdrew to a neighbouring building, there to await the answer of the god; for he communicates with men only through his ministers. After a short delay the answer came that for three years the barbarians would lay the country waste, at the end of which time the Chinese would be victorious and hunt the barbarians out of the land.

TURKEY.—The Porte has decided to bring up its effective force in the province of Tripoli from fifteen to thirty battalions. In consequence of emissaries having been sent thither by the Mahdi, the French authorities have ordered the troops on the Tunisian frontier to be reinforced.

The Porte is said to have intended the mobilisation of the whole fleet for the purpose of landing 2,000 men at Massowah, the occupation of that place by the Italians being much disapproved of at Constantinople. Orders were also sent to the Turkish naval commander at Jeddah to cross to Souakim, but were countermanded. The efforts of the Italian Ambassador and the English Chargé d'Affaires seem to have as yet prevented any expedition from Constantinople.

The Porte has not sanctioned the election of Mgr. Haroumian as Armenian Patriarch, being irritated against the Armenian Council, which elected him, on the ground that during the last war his sympathies are alleged to have been entirely with Russia when he was Bishop of Erzeroum. There is also a party among the Armenians against him, who allege that he was a Mahommedan until he was fourteen years old, and that by canonical law a person born of Christian parents can alone be Patriarch. On the application of this party the Porte has ordered an inquiry.

EGYPT.—The hearing of the appeal lodged by the Government against the judgment of the Cairo Tribunal of First Instance in the action brought against them by the Caisse has been further postponed until next week.

It is reported, *vid* Massowah, that the Kassala garrison have gained a great victory over the rebels. The losses of the Hadendowas are reported to have been as high as 3,600. It is stated that the Kassala garrison is in want of food and ammunition, and that its surrender, unless relieved, is merely a question of time.

Sir Charles Warren has been well received in Stellaland. He is massing troops at Vryburg, which will be his base of operations. He has proclaimed a military administration in the country, and has placed under arrest Mr. Van Niekerk and Commandant Celliers on the charge of complicity in the murder of Mr. Honey. It is believed that after the settlement of the Bechuana question Sir Charles Warren will proceed to Basutoland.

The Spanish Ministerial papers state that the Government has consented to suppress in the Bill authorising the ratification of the proposed *modus vivendi* with England the clause asking the Cortes for authority to negotiate for further concessions.

From Hungary, three violent shocks of earthquake, accompanied by subterranean rumblings, are reported to have occurred at Temesvar on Wednesday evening. Another shock, but less severe, occurred on Thursday morning.

IRELAND.

Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales will go to Ireland early in April, and will visit several parts of the country. At the request of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant the Queen has been graciously pleased to sanction the holding of a Levée by the Prince of Wales and a Drawing Room by the Princess of Wales, on Her Majesty's behalf, in Dublin Castle. Royal visits to Ireland have been more frequent during the present reign than in any previous period in the later history of the island. George IV. went to Dublin on the 11th of August, 1821, and stayed till the 16th of September. That was the first Royal visit for a couple of generations. The next was made by the Queen herself, who has now been three times in Ireland. Her Majesty's first visit was in August, 1849, when the Queen, the Prince Consort, and their children made a tour, and a Court was held at Dublin Castle. The next visit was in August, 1853, when the great Industrial Exhibition was being held in Dublin. The third and last time the Queen was in the Irish capital was in August, 1861, when Her Majesty and Prince Albert spent the last week of that month in the sister island. The Prince of Wales had been in Ireland at the end of the previous June. He was there again to open the Dublin International Exhibition in May, 1865. Three years later, in April, 1868, the Prince and Princess of Wales paid a visit to Ireland, and were received in Dublin on the 15th of April with a remarkable outburst of enthusiasm. On the next day they went to Punchestown races, and two days afterwards the Prince was installed as a Knight of St. Patrick. They were present at a review in Phœnix Park on the 20th of April, and left Dublin on the 24th, after a stay of nine days. The next and last visit of the Prince of Wales was at the opening of the Royal Agricultural Exhibition on the 1st of August, 1871. Other members of the Royal Family have been in Ireland on several occasions.

An important meeting, convened by the Ulster Conservative Parliamentary Committee, was held on the 20th inst. at St. Stephen's-chambers, Westminster. Viscount Crichton, M.P., presided, and among those present were the Earl of Belmore, Viscount Bangor, the Marquis of Hamilton, Sir Thomas Bateson, Bart., M.P., Mr. J. P. Corry, M.P., Captain Ker, M.P., Lord Arthur Hill, M.P., Mr. Macartney, M.P., Mr. Beresford, M.P., Hon. Colonel Knox, Colonel Waring, Rev. Dr. Kane, Mr. T. G. Peel, Mr. Wellington Young, Mr. W. E. Macartney, Mr. E. L. Finigan, and a large number of other influential gentlemen from the north of Ireland. After the meeting had considered the amendments to be moved on going into committee, and whilst in committee, on the Seats Bill, a discussion took place regarding the hopes of support from the leaders of the Conservative party for the proposals of the committee, and it was reported by several Ulster members likely to have knowledge of the matter that little if any support need be expected from Sir Stafford Northcote and the Marquis of Salisbury. An important debate followed with regard to the future attitude which the Conservative party in the north of Ireland should assume towards the Conservative party in England. Eventually, on the motion of the Marquis of Hamilton, seconded by Sir Thomas Bateson, it was unanimously decided to form an independent Irish Conservative party for the purpose of bringing pressure to bear upon the Conservative leaders for the protection and promotion of the interests of the loyalists of Ireland.

An outrage is reported from Drimcamogue, county Tipperary, where the front of the cabin of a farmer named Kelly, a tenant on the estate of Lord Normanton, was blown in late on Tuesday night. The explosion was caused by gunpowder, which had been packed in the box of an old wheel, the fragments of which were found.

General Gordon's despatches have been edited with unnecessary severity, and the editing has not been confined to the omission of passages which cannot be published on personal grounds. To give only one instance. A rumour, to which Sir H. Tyler alluded last night, asserts that the official censor has struck out the most important clause of all in one of Gordon's despatches, in which he says that he was sending Stewart down in order to tell the Government that if they made a Convention with Turkey they might evacuate the Soudan in January, 1885, but that if they refused to do so they would be there for another twelve months. Why is that omitted? If that were Gordon's opinion, are we not entitled to know it? How can the House form any judgment of Gordon's policy when his advice in such a matter as this is burked by the Government? That surely is neither to keep faith with the country nor with General Gordon.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

Messrs. Mayer and Co., of Munich, and 149, New Bond-street, London, solicit a visit to their showrooms, where they have always on view stained-glass windows and other objects of ecclesiastical art, executed for almost any part of the kingdom. Messrs. Mayer and Co. will have great pleasure in submitting designs and estimates for any window in contemplation, free of all charge.

THE NILE EXPEDITION.

According to General Buller's despatch received in London at the end of last week, he was in what appeared to be a critical position. From a distant hill some five hundred of the enemy were keeping up a galling fire, which had already caused several casualties, and threatened to cause many more. It would have been dangerous for General Buller to send out a force to turn these troublesome foes off the hill, as none could say how many of their friends might be lying in ambush. Finally, it seemed probable that the column on its march to Gakdul would be exposed to the attack of the whole of the enemy's force at Metammeh, swollen by the great reinforcements which the Mahdi had sent to their aid. These apprehensions were, however, relieved by the late news, from which it appears that General Buller, finding that the enemy continued their annoying fusillade from a distance, brought his guns and Gatling to bear upon them with excellent effect. The shells burst with great accuracy, and the enemy's loss was considerable. In the meantime Major Wardrop had gone out with three Hussars, no doubt with a view of reconnoitring the country, and ascertaining whether we had to deal only with the party on the hill, or whether there were masses of the enemy lying hid. The gallant officer was not content with ascertaining that no force from Metammeh was lying *perdu*, but proceeded to operate against the riflemen on the hill on his own account. Sweeping round to their rear, he and his three troopers opened fire upon them, now from one point, now from another, until the Arabs, believing that they had a large force behind them, became alarmed, and leaving their position, marched back to Metammeh. As we were told by General Buller that the enemy had with them some forty mounted men, this exploit of Major Wardrop and his three Hussars is one of the most daring and brilliant little feats of the war. The retirement of the party annoying the camp at Abu Klea relieved the column of any fear of immediate attack.

The correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*, describing the plucky exploit, says:—

"Major Wardrop was sent out on the morning of the 17th inst. to ascertain as accurately as might be the actual strength and position of the enemy, of which General Buller was still in ignorance. He took with him only one officer—Lieutenant Robert Tudway, of the Essex Regiment, who has done good service with the mounted infantry in this campaign—and three troopers specially chosen for their steadiness and nerve. These stole out of camp apparently quite unperceived by the enemy, and were soon lost to our view in the rocky and uneven ground. Proceeding cautiously along the valley, the little party turned the hilly ground whence had proceeded the fire which had so galled us the preceding night, and ere long found themselves right in the rear of the enemy's position. Wardrop took a good look round, which satisfied him that the rebel force was not nearly so formidable as had been supposed, and he would probably have retired as quietly as he came had not the enemy caught sight of him. Wardrop was now in a ticklish position, but he was quite equal to the emergency. He and his four companions fired a couple of volleys, and then quickly spread themselves out some 40yds. or 50yds. from each other, with the view of presenting as formidable a line as possible. All five then advanced straight at the astonished enemy, firing as rapidly as possible as they went, 'with all the impudence imaginable,' as one of the gallant band subsequently explained to me, with an air of keen enjoyment. The ruse was completely successful. The position was held by about 100 of the enemy, all riflemen, who fled precipitately, evidently in the full belief that Major Wardrop's party of five was the advance guard of two or three British columns advancing upon them from as many different points with the intention of annihilating them."

The *Daily Chronicle* has received from its special correspondent a letter giving a detailed account of the battle of Abu Klea, in which additional light is thrown upon some features of that encounter. In his introductory paragraph the correspondent remarks that "to tell the truth, we narrowly escaped a very great disaster, which has been averted mainly by the steadiness of the detachments of the three regiments of Guards." He then describes how Stewart's column on the morning of the 16th of January sent out scouts, who discovered that the enemy was in force in front. Having noted the enemy's position, and ascertained that the wells were too far behind it to be accessible that night even in case of success, General Stewart resolved to fortify himself where he stood.

"When day slowly broke, the enemy's post on the hill on our right began once more their fire, which increased until perhaps fifty rifles were at work by eight o'clock. Now we lighted fires and made coffee, and the operation of breakfasting under the enemy's fire, always from the right, and sometimes at random from the front, was as trying an ordeal as ever troops have had to submit to. Some dozen men and animals were hit, among the former being Major Dixon, sitting five yards from me in apparently complete shelter; but the high trajectory of the Remingtons made the bullets at the long range fall as if from the clouds. Among the animals hit at the same time was Colonel Burnaby's grey horse; and, saying with a grim smile, "I'm not in luck to-day," he led the limping creature away to procure a fresh charger. At seven o'clock the enemy had been seen advancing in line in perfect order, to the number of from 2,500 to 3,000, with a front of two divisions; his company colours, here of red, there of white, sometimes of both, dancing in the sun, and his tom-toms beating. It is quite clear that his troops were well in hand and well worked; but he was evidently puzzled at our apparent inaction, and halted in line at rather less than a mile from us, occasionally sending a few bullets in our direction and gradually taking ground to our right, but not very much, for two sections of the rifle company of the mounted infantry soon put a stop to any further movement in this direction."

When nine o'clock came General Stewart said something to the effect, "Well, if they won't come on I must go out;" and then he ordered the naval brigade with the Gardner gun to the left among the heavy cavalry, thereto joining Captain Norton's three camel-guns.

"At twenty minutes to ten the brigadier took horse, and going between the Guards in the centre and the heavies on the left, ordered an advance, giving at the same time the significant caution, 'When the men are ordered to close they must always close on their left,' this being the line of retreat and also the line which enabled the column to keep along the edge of the wady upon the high ground. For nearly an hour the enemy retired, gradually, as it seemed dissolving in the long grass of the wady, but keeping up a good body at the same time in front. Our men had formed square. All at once there came a rush up two narrow gullies leading from the wady, where the face of the square was necessarily a little irregular from the contour of the ground; and the heavies, instead of remaining steady, as infantry would have done, followed their cavalry instincts and rushed out to meet the ghazis, who came on at great speed, brandishing spears, hurling javelins, and wielding huge double-handed swords. All the valour of the heavies was of no avail once they had broken their formation; and they were forced back upon the naval brigade with the Gardner gun, and upon the right of the Sussex, who had naturally closed up towards the gap. The consequence was that a breach was made in the angle of the square, and one of the ghazis even got so far in as to try to set fire, with a torch he had ready, to the battery ammunition. Despite the great efforts of Colonel Burnaby, Captain Verner (Sir C. Wilson's staff officer), and others, the heavies were being massacred, when Burnaby fell with two wounds in the head, Verner was forced to the ground, and his life saved by Major Carmichael, of the 5th Lancers, whose dead body fell across him, as well as those of three ghazis. Meanwhile the Guards, whose line was as steady as a rock, faced about, delivered a counter-attack, rescued the heavies, and drove the Mahdi's ghazis out of the square, when they were severely punished, though they did some terrible execution in return."

General Stewart now moved on about 120 yards to more level ground, and then at him again came the sable warriors, nothing daunted by their first repulse.

"This time, too, they did much execution; but not so much as before, and the fire from the face of the square was nearly enough to drive them back pell-mell into the long grass, where the guns did heavy work among them for a mile and more. Fully 500 bodies lay on the scene of the first struggle—rider and horse and camel and foot-soldier, friend and foe, in one red ruin blent. Had water been as plentiful as blood, the force would not have suffered untold agonies of thirst. But no water was to be had. The moans of the wounded for water were piteous in the extreme, and there was hardly a drop to give them. But good Dr. Ferguson, the chief of the medical staff—a harder working and better man for his position there is not in the Army—with his colleagues, achieved wonders; and before three o'clock all was ready for the advance, the wounded being carried on camel litters and on stretchers to the wells, which were occupied without further opposition beyond a few shots from flying natives. At night volunteers were called upon to go back for the convoy, and the position round the wells was held till this morning, foodless, if not waterless, the night again being bitterly cold. But meanwhile some parties of the enemy had got round our rear, and made an attack upon the convoy in the zareba at our former position. They took nothing by their motion except the loss of nearly a hundred men, and then the remainder began streaming out of the wady and over the hills in the direction of Berber.

"Had there been one regiment of cavalry we might have exterminated or taken prisoners these fellows, who to the last maintained a defiant appearance. They jumped out of the long grass and closed with individual soldiers for hours after the fight was over, and two of them in ghazi's uniform excited admiration by the cool way in which they walked off at about 600 to 1,000 yards away, regarding not at all the attempts to pot them.

"No time remains for more details of the fight. But I must tell the last of poor Colonel Burnaby. When he fell, his head was raised by Private Wood, of the Grenadier Guards. This good fellow, seeing the case was hopeless, said, 'Oh, Colonel, I fear I can say no more than "God bless you."' The dying man, his life-blood running out in a stream from his jugular vein, opened his eyes, smiled, gave a gentle pressure of the hand, and passed away."

In a postscript the correspondent says:—

"It has, I regret to say, been definitely ascertained that the order which resulted in the break of the square at Abu Klea, and the great loss of life in the heavy camel corps, was given by Colonel Burnaby, who had no position in the regiment, and was merely acting as a staff officer. He ordered the men to leave their positions, and he then ordered them back, but unfortunately too late for the square, for the heavies, and for himself."

A grand durbar was held at Korti on Monday, on the occasion of the investiture of the Mudir of Dongola with the insignia of the Order of St. Michael and St. George by Lord Wolseley. The brevet of installation was read by an interpreter in the Arabic language, after which Lord Wolseley personally placed the collar of the Order round the Mudir's neck. The Mudir delivered a short speech, in which he begged his lordship to convey to the Queen his thanks for the distinction conferred upon him by Her Majesty. Lord Wolseley informed the Mudir that General Gordon had written letters speaking in high terms of him and of the services that he had rendered, and he accordingly presented him with one of the gold decorations which General Gordon had made to present to those who distinguished themselves in the defence of Khartoum. The Sheikh Sali of the Kabbabish tribe was present at the ceremony, and Lord Wolseley took the occasion to make him a complimentary speech, thanking him for what he had already done, in the way of supplying camels, and promising him rewards and honours if good and loyal service was rendered by his tribe.

A telegram from Lord Wolseley states that General Brackenbury, on the 21st, had crossed to the right bank of the Nile, and was to advance to Abu Hamed, forty miles distant, on the 22nd. He had visited the scene of Colonel Stewart's murder, and found various relics of the party. The steamer was gutted and filled with sand. All the property of the blind man, Fakri Etman, who was one of the principal instigators of the murder, had been completely destroyed. The wounded were doing well, and the health and spirits of the force were excellent.

The following letter from General Gordon, addressed to a friend in Cairo, and dated Khartoum, December 14, was received on Tuesday:—"All is up. I expect a catastrophe in ten days' time. It would not have been so if our people had kept me better informed as to their intentions. My adieux to all.—C. G. Gordon." It is remarked that the scrap of paper received by Lord Wolseley from General Gordon with the words "Khartoum all right" bore the same date as the above letter.

Describing the last sad scene of Sir Herbert Stewart's brilliant career, an officer of his staff writes:—"We buried him in the little British graveyard near the Gakdul Wells. It was the most impressive scene any one ever went through. We formed a procession in the valley, headed by the firing party and the band of the Royal Sussex. The pall-bearers were Majors Hon. C. Byng and Gould, Lieutenants Lord, Browning, Douglas, and Dawson, and Captain Rhodes. Colonel Talbot read the service. I looked up once. It is no exaggeration to say that everyone round the place had utterly broken down. I have lost the kindest, best friend man ever had, and England, I honestly think, one of her best officers. It was a most trying time for him, that march out from El Gubat; but the doctors say nothing could possibly have saved him from the first. I fully believe them. The 19th Hussars made a forced march to try to be in time for the funeral, but arrived just too late. This morning they came and asked to be allowed to do the stonework round the grave, and have been working all day."

According to the *Mubashir*, a paper published at Dongola, the fall of Khartoum was due not only to the treachery of Faragh Pasha, but also to that of several of the Mahdi's followers, who made their way into Khartoum and sowed dissension among the garrison. Faragh had the command of the western gate of the garrison—that is to say, the gate commanding the Mahdi's position at Omdurman, and deserters from the Mahdi's camp obtained admission in this way in considerable numbers, particularly just before the betrayal took place, all the fugitives pretending that they had left the rebel camp owing to the famine that prevailed there. They were hospitably entertained at Khartoum, and, at their own request were distributed over the western fortifications of the garrison, under the traitor Faragh. They appear, however, to have behaved well enough in repelling the attacks of the Mahdi's followers, and on this account Gordon does not seem to have suspected any possible treachery on their part. On January 21 Faragh informed Gordon that the famine in the Mahdi's camp had reached its acutest stage, and that the rebels would desert by hundreds if they could only safely cross the White Nile. Gordon accordingly ordered two of his steamers to cruise about before Omdurman for the purpose of taking up any fugitives who might want to cross over to Khartoum. The captains of the steamers, however, were bribed by the Mahdi, and on the night of January 25 conveyed across the White Nile from Omdurman to Khartoum several hundred rebels, who were admitted through the western gate of the garrison by Faragh Pasha at four o'clock on the morning of the 26th January, Faragh being assisted by those under his command, who had gained admission into Khartoum as fugitives. The rest of the story is substantially as has been already reported. Nothing is said as to the reported hanging of Faragh by the Mahdi.

The Alexandrian organ *Nagara* states that the traitor Faragh Pasha, who betrayed General Gordon, had been promised 150,000 thalers by the Mahdi, but only received 60,000. Having made complaints he was forthwith hanged. At Khartoum the Mahdi captured twenty-one Krupp guns, a vast quantity of powder, and 15,000 Remington rifles.

In the prevailing anxiety to secure, as far as may be, the welfare of our soldiers and sailors in the Soudan and Egypt, a few ladies, whose names will be found below, have endeavour to concert a plan by which some further provision may be made for the health and comfort of the British troops, more especially the sick and wounded, in that trying climate. They therefore venture to appeal to the public for subscriptions to substantially supplement the arrangements of the War Office for this purpose, and invite ladies in provincial towns to form affiliated sub-committees for the collection of funds. The National Aid Society has promised to render all the assistance in its power. The following are the ladies who have taken this work in hand:—The Duchess of Buccleuch and Queensberry, the Duchess of St. Albans, the Dowager Duchess of Marlborough, the Marchioness of Salisbury, Lady Louisa Egerton, Countess Granville, the Countess of Morley, the Countess of Rosebery, Viscountess Wolmer, Lady Wolseley, Lady Sophia Palmer, the Hon. Lady Loyd-Lindsay, Lady Northcote, Lady De Rothschild, Mrs. Gladstone, Miss Florence Nightingale, Mrs. Wilton Phipps, Miss Cohen, and Miss Higgins; treasurer, Lady Rosebery, Lansdowne House, Berkeley-square, W.; secretaries, Lady Wolmer and Mrs. Wilton Phipps; assistant-secretary, Miss Higgins. All letters and donations to be directed to the treasurer, and marked "Soudan and Egypt."

The Duke of Norfolk presided over an indignation meeting held on Wednesday night in the Riding School at Knightsbridge, to consider the Egyptian policy of the Government. Mr. Stanhope, M.P., moved a resolution, which was adopted, deploring the sacrifice of General Gordon as a national calamity An addition to another resolution was moved from the body of the hall, throwing the responsibility of Gordon's death on the Government, and carried. Sir Robert Peel, M.P., and the other speakers denounced in vigorous terms the policy of the Government, and pointed to a change of Government as the only means of redeeming the national disgrace.

Painted windows as memorials of departed worth have more than ordinary interest in the eyes of all. Mr. W. G. Taylor (late O'Connor) has at all times pleasure of showing his various works for church and hall in progress, the introduction of likenesses in windows being a special study. Designs and estimates free. Medal awarded to works in Paris Exhibition.—The "Art" Works, 4, Berners-street, London.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Monday.

Lord Salisbury gave notice that on Thursday he would move a resolution to the effect that the House, having taken into consideration the statements made on behalf of the Government, is of opinion that the deplorable failure of the Soudan expedition to attain its object has been due to the undecided councils of the Government and to the culpable delay attending the commencement of operations; and, secondly, that the policy of abandoning the whole of the Soudan after the conclusion of military operations would be dangerous to Egypt and inconsistent with the interests of the empire. Notice was thereupon given by Lord Wentworth that he should move by way of amendment that an address be presented to her Majesty, settting forth that the course pursued by the Government in respect to Egypt and the Soudan had involved a great sacrifice of valuable lives and a heavy expenditure, without any beneficial result, and that it was imperatively necessary, in the interest of the British Empire and of the Egyptian people, that the Government should not employ British forces to occupy the Soudan, or prevent the exercise by the Egyptian people of their right to select their own Government.

In answer to Lord De La Warr, Lord Granville stated that at an early date he would lay on the table the correspondence relating to the occupation of Massowa by Italian troops. He further mentioned that the correspondence would show that Her Majesty's Government had not professed to bestow on Italy what was not theirs to give. Replying to Lord Dunraven, he stated that the Government of France had denied that they were at war with China, and represented that their operations in the Chinese waters were in the nature of reprisals; but, as we held that they were at war with China, they claimed of us the rights of belligerents, and her Majesty's Government acknowledged that claim by recognising their right of search on the high seas. Lord Salisbury observed that he would await with some interest the production of the despatches on this subject, because if France was blockading by force only one or two ports in Formosa and the rest of her blockade of China was a mere paper one, that would not give her a general right of search.

Lord Derby, in answer to Lord Belmore, said that he could not pledge himself to bring in before Easter a Bill to enable the Australian colonies to form a federation, but he would do so as early as possible. Commenting on some observations by Lord Brabourne, he protested against the Government being supposed to be indifferent to the offers of military assistance from the colonies because there was a delay in accepting them. It was obvious that the decision as to those offers could only be come to after special considerations as to time, the operations to be performed, and the number of men to be employed.

Lord Granville, in answer to Lord Harrowby, stated that the telegrams, despatches, and diaries of General Gordon would all be produced with the exception of those portions of them which reflected on individuals or the publication of which would have an injurious effect on our military operations.

Their lordships adjourned at 6 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Monday.

The opening of the debate on the vote of censure attracted a large audience. Several questions were put by Baron H. De Worms and others as to the events on the Afghan frontier. Lord E. Fitzmaurice said there was no truth in the rumour that the Russians had attacked Penjdeh, and as late as the 14th the Russian Government had given an emphatic contradiction to the statement that she was about to march on Herat. Mr. J. K. Cross said that the Russian forces since the commencement of the negotiations for delimitation had advanced towards Herat, and were now at Sariyazi, on the Murghab, 140 miles from Herat. Asked by Mr. Bourke, whether, according to the maps at the India Office, this was not within the limits of Afghanistan, Mr. Cross said the maps there differed from other maps, but ultimately he admitted that he had not seen any map in which this point was not placed within the limits of Afghanistan. In answer to Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. Gladstone said that the declarations of the British Government in regard to the integrity of Afghanistan still remained in full force, as did also the declarations of Russia that Afghanistan was without the sphere of her interests. In answer to Colonel Makins, Sir William Harcourt said that after an interview with the Under-Sheriff of Exeter he had signed a warrant respiting the convict Lee during Her Majesty's pleasure. Mr. Lewis having asked whether a Crimes Prevention Bill would be introduced this session, Mr. Gladstone referred him to his answer on Friday that no information could be given until some progress was made with the Seats Bill. Sir H. Wolff proposed to ask whether this was to leave an opportunity for another Kilmainham compact, but the Speaker stopped him, and Mr. Gladstone said the suggestion had no foundation but in imagination.

The Orders of the Day having been postponed on the motion of Mr. Gladstone,

Sir Stafford Northcote, who was loudly cheered, rose to propose the vote of censure. Sir Stafford began with a pointed allusion to the criticisms to which the terms of his motion have been subjected. Expressing a desire to explain the object of his motion he said, "I need not point out that a motion which calls for such comments upon Her Majesty's Government is a motion which involves serious responsibility on the part of him who makes it, for it is, of course, a conclusion to be drawn from it that I hold and am prepared to assert that Her Majesty's Government have failed to conduct the affairs which they have lately been conducting in a manner satisfactory to the public or beneficial to England, and further, that it requires that the House should express a distinct opinion with regard to the responsibility of Her Majesty's Government, and the steps that they should take for the establishment of a good and stable Government in Egypt. By asking the House to affirm that such steps are necessary, I imply that the Government have not taken such steps, and are not taking them." Alluding to the votes of censure last year, he said that there were many on those occasions who, though they felt themselves bound to support the Government, were not satisfied in their own minds. (Cheers.) They held that the course of the Government was unsatisfactory, but were satisfied by promises and expectations which were held out on the part of Her Majesty's advisers. The grounds which satisfied them then, that the further operations about to be undertaken would be of a satisfactory character, had been entirely or largely disappointed. (Opposition cheers.) The failure had been due not so much to faults here and there as to the general spirit in which the Government had conducted these proceedings. (Cheers.) Unless a complete and entire change took place in that spirit it would still be their lot to fail in what they had undertaken. Great exertions were now being made, but "at the same time that these brave men are being sent out, there is a voice which proceeds from the councils of Her Majesty's Government that deprives the expedition of half its strength. (Cheers.) We have a voice of uncertainty as to what is to be the position that Her Majesty's Government are endeavouring to attain in Egypt. You cannot expect that these operations, or any operations, can be conducted to a satisfactory conclusion unless you distinctly lay down that which you are fighting for, and will clearly express your determination to get it. (Opposition cheers.) Ministers had always hitherto implied that their great hope and object is to make their remaining in Egypt as short as it possibly can be made—(Radical cheers)—and have taken pains to impress on the minds of all, that as soon as the military measures have been completed, Her Majesty's Government will withdraw their troops from the country." "Now," said Sir Stafford, "nothing can be more dangerous to our interests, I venture to say, than this declaration. (Cheers.) At the present moment our brave and gallant troops are in a position which causes us anxiety, and which we regard with full hope and confidence that the same gallantry which has distinguished them hitherto will carry them out of. But it is impossible for us not to see that there is a prospect of a somewhat lengthened retention of the troops in that country, that there is a prospect of their being under circumstances of considerable difficulty, and that much depends on the spirit which we are showing here as to the success they may achieve. (Opposition cheers.) If you are talking more of withdrawing your troops from Egypt as soon as you can than of pressing forward and securing the definite objects which are before us, not only do you discourage your troops, but you do something which may be very serious in its consequences. You will impress on the natives of that country a false belief—I trust it may be a false belief—that after all these operations have been accomplished, after you have made your march to Khartoum, or whatever may be your objective point, after you have defeated your enemies, you will then retire, and leave them to the consequences which will follow after that retirement. (Cheers.) Now, I can conceive nothing more dangerous, nothing that would more aggravate the difficulties of our brave soldiers than that such an impression as that should go abroad." The nation was proud of its Army:—"They have done their duty in a manner which deserves at our hands the most serious gratitude and at the same time the most serious consideration. (Cheers.) It is precisely because I admire and recognise their great services to the country that I am particularly anxious that they should be supported in a manner which is true and loyal, and which will encourage them and give them heart. (Opposition cheers.) After passing a warm eulogy on General Gordon Sir Stafford added, "We have from time to time had reason to doubt whether he was thoroughly supported by Her Majesty's Government. (Opposition cheers.) We have reason to doubt whether they were trading on the admirable qualities of his nature. (Opposition cheers.) . . . The conduct of General Gordon and his relations with the Government have been such that while on the one hand we feel that, when we mention that name, a flush of pride rises on our countenances; there is, on the other, a feeling of shame." (Opposition cheers.) Reminding the House of Gordon's telegram to the effect that the abandonment of the garrisons would bring "indelible disgrace" to England, he continued:—"Look at the present moment, and see how those words of his, which were lightly held at the time, and which the supporters of the Government passed by as rather the words of an enthusiast than of a statesman; see how those very prophecies had been fulfilled. (Opposition cheers.) See how the state of things which General Gordon described is now the present condition of affairs, with one melancholy exception. He has not 'retired to the Equator'; he has fallen in the discharge of his duty; he has fallen in a manner which, I doubt not, he was prepared for at any moment of his life, but one which reflects upon us anything but credit." (Hear, hear.) Sir Stafford then quoted a more recent letter of Gordon's:—"'We are very cross with you all, for since the 29th of March we have had not one word from outer world. (Opposition cheers.) I have paid as much as £140 for a spy, and you gave that poor devil (so he says) 20dols. to go from Massowah to Khartoum. (Opposition cheers and cries of "Oh.") However, I have given him £20. . . . The *rôle* of our country has not been very noble in Egypt or Soudan. (Loud Opposition cheers.) Again on Sept. 9, Gordon had written:—'How many times have we written asking for reinforcements, calling your serious attention to the Soudan? No answer at all has come to us as to what has been decided in the matter; and the hearts of men have become weary of this delay. (Loud Opposition cheers.) While you are eating and drinking, and resting on good beds, we and those with us, both soldiers and servants, are watching by night and by day endeavouring to quell the movements of this false Mahdi. Of course, you take no interest for suppressing this rebellion, the serious consequences of which are the reverse of victorious for you, and the neglect thereof will not do.'" "No, continued Sir Stafford, "we take no interest in the suppression of this rebellion'—this rebellion being of people who were rightly struggling to be free." (Loud Opposition cheers.) Adverting to the excuse that Khartoum fell only through treachery, he asked what must have been the effect of our delay upon the minds of the inhabitants of Khartoum, whom Gordon was asking to make those sacrifices, and with whom he was day after day going into engagements in every direction, and keeping up their spirits by the exercise of his own personal influence, and by the constant assurance that they were not forgotten by the British Govern-

ment, and were not to look in vain for help. (Cheers.) "Nobody can doubt that language of that kind must have been frequently held by General Gordon, and that as time went on, and these expectations were not fulfilled, and the help still tarried, the hearts of the people grew cold, sad, and alarmed. And when we hear that, after all, Khartoum fell by treachery, are we quite sure that that treachery was in no way brought on or caused by the action of the Government? (Opposition cheers.) . . . . I can suggest other reasons why it was very possible that there might have been treachery at the last. It might have been that they were getting hopeless, and starved out—(hear, hear)—that they had exhausted their provisions, were living on hard fare every day, and their condition was becoming most intolerable to them, and that it was better to open the gates to the Mahdi, thus giving up the town to the Power that was close to them, rather than to that which was some way distant from them; that they thought it was better to open the gates to the Mahdi than to hold them at the risk of an utter failure, and massacre, and great destruction. Or it may have been that those who were guilty of that treachery were inclined to believe that the policy of the English Government was the policy that you should come with your forces to Khartoum to rescue your own countryman, and then retire and leave everybody else." (Opposition cheers.) Referring to the phrase "Rescue and retire," we were getting to be too much in these matters the slaves of phrases. (Cheers.) "The Prime Minister is a great master of phrases, and he makes them sometimes for himself and sometimes for other people. (Cheers and laughter.) But the master of phrases is very apt to become the servant and slave of phrases; and that is the case in this phrase of 'Rescue and retire.'" (Cheers.) After recounting the instructions given to Gordon, and the failure of the Government to realise their responsibilities to Egypt, Sir Stafford said that throughout the whole of these proceedings Her Majesty's Government had been conducting their business with the fatal drawback of having proclaimed to those amongst whom they were going that their mission to Egypt was only temporary, and that they were about, as speedily as possible, to withdraw. (Opposition cheers.) The Prime Minister "is sending out forces; he is making railways, and he is giving instructions to his military commander, but his words fly far, and the words which he used the other day with regard to the continued desire and object of the Government to withdraw the Egyptian garrisons, and as far as possible to withdraw from the occupation of the Soudan—these expressions, construed as they will be, will convey a fatal impression. (Cheers.) I want to get some clear and definite conclusion as to what it is the Government are going to war for? (Radical cheers.) Is it to obtain some definite and useful object? If so, I hope we shall be told what that object is. (Radical cheers.) Unless there is some definite object which we are to aim at, I am not one of those who desire to see the prosecution of the war. (Radical cheers.) It is unnecessary to vindicate the honour of the English Army; it is unnecessary to vindicate the honour of your country; but it is necessary that you should know you were aiming at an object which was a worthy object, and which you could recommend as worthy of the great sacrifice it would cost." The object of placing this great country on a footing of a satisfactory character was worthy of great exertions, even of the loss of life and treasure which further military operations must necessarily entail. "If we could be assured what those objects are, we should have more confidence in what is likely to be the result of these expeditions. But we fear that the ingrained difficulty is not removed, that it is not possible to put any confidence in her Majesty's Government—(cheers)—that they will alter their course, and more than destroy the effect of what they do by words which will give a different effect to their proceedings. (Cheers.) His motion declared the necessity of the Government fulfilling its responsibilities:—"In attempting to minimise your responsibility now, you will increase tenfold the task which will ultimately fall upon you. (Hear, hear.) You are now doing that which you might have done, but which you refused to do, last year—(Opposition cheers)—and which, if you had then done it, would probably have been more effective and would have produced a greater result with far less expenditure of means. You are now about to send out large reinforcements, and to change your line of action. You are going to put down that railway from Souakim to Berber, of which you spoke in contempt and disapprobation a year ago. You are about to form that line which General Graham, after the slaughter at El Teb, might have proceeded upon, and by a rapid march might have opened the country and made the access easier to Berber and Khartoum. But all those things which you laid aside then you are now taking up. If you were right then, how can you be right now?" Having broken up the Egyptian Government, we could not leave things in that state:—"It is now impossible to let Egypt and the South take care of themselves. You must be held responsible, not only in the eyes of the people of this country, but in the eyes of the whole world. (Hear, hear.) You have been allowed to occupy a position of a very peculiar character there in consequence of the sacrifices we have made, and in consequence of the efforts which it was supposed we should make for bringing about a satisfactory state of peace and stable government in Egypt. You will not have the same facility given to you if you fail entirely in the discharge of your duty. . . . Day by day we are getting into deeper water—(Opposition cheers)—day by day we wait with anxiety for the news that comes from abroad. We admire the gallantry and skill of our officers, the pluck and endurance of our soldiers; but day by day we are more impressed with the gravity of the situation. I have felt that it was a serious question whether I was justified in taking the responsibility of calling attention to these matters, and submitting a motion to the House. But I felt it was my duty to do so, whatever might be the consequences. (Opposition cheers.) I call upon the House to pronounce a verdict in this matter once again. We lay before you substantially the same case as was laid before—(Ministerial laughter)—with the additional experience of the value of Ministerial promises—(loud Opposition cheers)—and the success of Ministerial action. When I say we lay before you the same case, I ask hon. members opposite are they really satisfied that the case is not strengthened, is it not altogether doubly and trebly proved by the results? What has followed since the Vote of Confidence? and are you now about to renew that Vote of Confidence, which was given rather personally to the Ministry than to the plans which the Ministry put forward? Are you prepared to give them still a *carte blanche* to do as they please in these matters without requiring a strict account of what they are going to do, and whether they are going to undertake these matters in the one spirit or the other? There are some who will support the Ministry on grounds the very opposite to the grounds of the support which will be given by others. Some will say, 'We will keep these Ministers in office because we believe that through them we shall be able to accomplish, at last, the objects we have in view, that we shall possibly stimulate and keep them up to military operations of adequate importance and to settlements of an adequate character. Others will say, with the hon. member for Newcastle (Mr. J. Morley) and his friends, 'We support the Government because we think that out of them we have the best chance of getting the accomplishment of our own wishes, that Egypt should be left alone as soon as possible.' But how can the Government, in such a matter as this, go on with divided support at every stage of its action, whether it is a policy of abandonment or a policy of advance? I care not whether it is a settlement in one way or another, but how can they arrive at any satisfactory settlement supported by two parties who possess such diametrically opposite views?" It was the duty of the House to demand a clear explanation from the Government; but he had great doubt whether the Government would throw off the taint of fear of responsibility, or give that confidence which the country demanded. (Loud Opposition cheers.)

Mr. J. MORLEY moved an amendment asking the House, while refraining from giving an opinion on the policy of the Government in Egypt, to express its regret at the decision of the Government to employ the forces of the Crown for the overthrow of the power of the Mahdi. Having deprecated the action of Sir S. Northcote as being inconsistent with the views he expressed a year ago, he contended that the real issue was whether a speedy withdrawal of our troops from the Soudan was or was not desirable. He quoted the opinion of General Gordon in support of his assertion that the slave trade could not be put a stop to from the centre of Africa, and he ridiculed the possibility of establishing an English Government at Khartoum. He recommended that negotiations, with a view to a peaceful settlement, should be opened with the Mahdi; and in conclusion he characterised the present policy of the Government as a waste of national strength unredeemed by any good to the inhabitants of the Soudan or to the people of this country.

Mr. GLADSTONE, who was cheered by his party, said the Government objected to both the resolution and the amendment. Answering in detail the argument of the leader of the Opposition, he paid a tribute to the memory of General Gordon, whom he described as a hero among heroes, and as one who had devoted his life not only to his Sovereign and his country but to the world. The motion, Mr. Gladstone went on to say, contained an accusation against the Government, and when he first heard its terms read he thought there would be an appeal from the decision of last year, but he found from the speech of the right hon. gentleman opposite that there was not an act now alleged against the Government which was not in full face of the House when the whole subject was discussed in May last year. The reading of the "indelible disgrace" despatch had been made a great point of last year by the right hon. member for East Gloucestershire, and again by the leader of the Opposition to-night. But both declined to adopt or become responsible for the policy which Gordon in that same despatch recommended, and the non-adoption of which was what Gordon thought would involve "indellible disgrace." One of those recommendations was to send Zobehr. If the Government had consented to that, Parliament within forty-eight hours would have voted an Address to the Crown paralysing their action. Another was to send two squadrons of cavalry. But the hot season had then set in, and it was more likely that if they had been sent they would have fallen the victims of a hopeless enterprise than that they would have rescued Gordon. But all these matters were discussed last May, and the contention of the Opposition was that regardless of the distance, of the terrible nature of the climate, and of the fact that ascent by the Nile was impossible, the forces of the Queen should be sent to Khartoum. The Government had never denied their obligation to relieve Gordon, but they had no reason to believe for a while that Gordon was in danger in Khartoum, and the investigations as to the route to be pursued by an expedition necessarily occupied considerable time. On the 5th of August, in view of the prorogation of Parliament, and seeing that the necessity for an expedition might arise, the Government obtained a vote of money on the understanding that they should make preparations for an expedition if it should become necessary, and from the 8th of August forward there had been no delay in making those preparations. Even if there had been military delay, which there was not, that had no connection with the fall of Khartoum. If there had been a breaking of the walls by the enemy or a failure of provisions, the argument that the date of the expedition had something to do with the fall of Khartoum would become plausible. But Khartoum was betrayed, and the betrayal occurred at a time when it was perfectly well known that Lord Wolseley was on his way to the rescue, and was very near at hand. As to the starvation theory, Gordon telegraphed on the 24th of August that he had five months' provisions, and on December 14 he sent a message that Khartoum was all right, though the messenger of the latter date said the troops in Khartoum were suffering from lack of provisions. But subsequent to this date the steamers had made successful foraging raids. A messenger who left Khartoum on the 28th of December reported to Lord Wolseley that Gordon was in perfect health, that the troops on the five steamers were happy, and that they had seized cattle and food and taken them to Khartoum. Thus the starvation theory fell to the ground. But might not the betrayal of Khartoum have been suggested by the very approach of the British army? That, at any rate, was the opinion of some who were near the scene of action. A telegram sent by Lord Wolseley on Saturday set forth the statements of persons from Khartoum to the effect that the betrayal had been long ago agreed upon with the Mahdi, and that it would have happened whenever the British forces approached Khartoum. It was an exaggeration to say that the war had produced no beneficial results, for the slave trade had been restricted in the Soudan by the military operations, and in Egypt much had been done for humanity and civilisation. A beginning had been made of representative government, and there had been valuable reforms in the Courts of Justice. Two horrible abuses, inflicting an infinity of suffering, had been abolished. The kourbash had passed out of use, the system of forced labour had come to an end, and operations of immense value to Egypt in the way of irrigation had been carried out. At one time there seemed danger in a rupture with France; the two Governments were now in a position of cordial friendship. The financial negotiations had been conducted to a state of maturity, and he hoped that in a few days they would be formally concluded. The proposal of the motion to establish "stable government in those portions of the Soudan which were necessary to the security of Egypt" would, if adopted, mean that our army should be condemned to struggle year after year in a tropical climate with a courageous and desperate people, and that a despotic Government should be upheld there by British hands; but the Government could give no such pledge. They might as well speak of chaining the sands to the desert when a tempest was howling over them. They were in the presence of a serious crisis in the face of the world. If the House condemned what they had done, by all means let them do so; but he implored them to eschew the entangling engagements which were embodied in the resolution. If, on the other hand, the House believed the Government had performed their obligations, he hoped they would not withhold an expression of their confidence which would fortify the country in the face of the world.

Baron H. DE WORMS, in criticising the speech of Mr. Gladstone, maintained that it had in no sense justified the policy of the Government, which he described as one continuous chain of vacillation, change, and failure. Tracing the course of events from the bombardment of Alexandria, he contended that the acme of mischievous policy had been reached, which no promise of amendment such as Mr. Gladstone had made could remedy. He asserted that the Conservative party were prepared to accept the responsibilities which the Government seemed so eager to shirk, and he challenged the Prime Minister to declare his policy or accept the vote of censure which had been moved. Sir GEORGE CAMPBELL expressed gratification at the speech of Mr. Gladstone, and strongly advocated a cessation of hostilities in the Soudan. Colonel DAWNAY was of opinion that the motion of Sir Stafford Northcote did not sufficiently express the indignation felt by the large majority of Englishmen at the policy of the Government, and hoped that one of the final acts of the present Parliament would be to depose the present Government from office. Mr. SUTHERLAND expressed his conviction that the Government was not to blame. Mr. BRODRICK commented on the divergences of the Ministerial supporters, and pointed out that in their lobby would be found the apostles of peace alongside of those whose blunders were responsible for forcing on us a North African Empire. He disapproved of the Ministerial policy throughout, and supported the motion as a protest against the objectless waste of blood and treasure. Mr. PICTON contended that it was a mistake on the part of the Government to send out General Gordon, and ridiculed the idea that it is necessary for this country to fight in the Soudan in order to maintain its prestige. Sir H. GIFFARD asked for information as to what was to be the policy of the Government in the future, and, having argued that General Gordon had been sent to Khartoum entirely on the responsibility of the Government, complained that they so long delayed to attempt to rescue him from the position in which they had allowed him to be placed. After a few words from Mr. W. REDMOND, the debate was adjourned on the motion of Mr. GOSCHEN.

After some other business the House adjourned at a quarter to 1 o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

The Earl of MORLEY, replying to the Earl of LONGFORD, denied the statement which has appeared in the public Press that the 20th Hussars left Aldershot for the seat of war without being properly equipped. The equipment was placed on board the steamer at Portsmouth in which they were to embark; and he asked if it was seriously suggested that two squadrons of cavalry should march from Aldershot in February in the clothes intended to be used in the Soudan in the middle of the summer. Earl COWPER asked whether, in view of the deplorable circumstances attending the late failure to carry out a capital conviction at Exeter, the Government would not appoint a public executioner removable by the Secretary of State. Lord MONSON promised that full inquiry would be made into the circumstances, but stated that it did not appear at present that any blame rested on the executioner.

Their Lordships adjourned at 5 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, having declined an appeal from Mr. BIRKBECK to remit the duty on private brewing, the hon. gentleman gave notice that on the earliest opportunity he would move that the annual licence should be reduced from six shillings to three shillings per year. Mr. J. K. CROSS, questioned by Sir H. TYLER, said the Governor-General of India had not asked for any increase of British troops in India, and the Government did not think it necessary to strengthen the forces of that country. Mr. GLADSTONE, in answer to the same hon. gentleman, stated that the Government were engaged in taking the steps they deemed best for ascertaining and securing the entire frontier of Afghanistan, including Herat. Mr. GLADSTONE, replying to Mr. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT, repudiated the statement that the policy of the Government was the evacuation of the Soudan immediately after the taking of Khartoum. What he stated was that the evacuation of the Soudan by Egypt and its restoration to freedom constituted the original policy of the Government, and that that policy had not been altered, though events had occurred which prevented its immediate execution.

Mr. GLADSTONE having moved that the debate on the vote of censure should have precedence of all other orders, Mr. J. REDMOND opposed the motion; and some desultory speeches followed from Irish members, occupying nearly an hour, in the course of which Mr. W. H. Redmond was silenced for irrelevancy, and Mr. A. O'CONNOR moved an amendment. Finally, when Mr. Justin M'Carthy was about to address the House, the SPEAKER, intervening, said it was his duty to inform the House "that he considered the subject had been adequately discussed, and it was the evident sense of the House that the question should be at once put." Upon this Mr. O'BRIEN, rising, shouted "We will remember this in Ireland." The SPEAKER at once "named" the hon. member, and Mr. GLADSTONE moved his suspension. The House then divided on the question, which was carried by 244 to 20. After the announcement of the numbers the SPEAKER requested Mr. O'Brien to withdraw. He rose at once, and in leaving the House said in a loud voice, "I do so with more pleasure than I ever entered it." Mr. GLADSTONE then moved that the question be at once put. There was a short wrangle with the Speaker as to whether he was putting the question that the amendment should be put, or putting the amendment itself. It being made clear that it was the former, the House divided on what was in reality the first application of the "clôture," and there appeared for the motion 207, against 46. The number 207 being sufficient to carry the clôture, the amendment of Mr. A. O'Connor itself was at once put, and rejected by 235 to 19. Upon Mr. Gladstone's motion that the debate on the vote of censure should take precedence of all other business, Mr. PARNELL complained that the rights of private members were being invaded, and asserted that there was no urgency for the debate on the vote of censure.

The House divided again, and the motion was carried by 222 to 19.

The debate on the vote of censure was resumed by Sir JOHN LUBBOCK, who expressed himself willing to support the Government in any line they might adopt for the defence of Egypt, but thought they ought to make up their minds as to the frontier they should adopt, and not go further than the point at which they intended to remain. Mr. STUART-WORTLEY believed the best thing that could be done would be to have such a reconstruction of the Ministry, following a vote of the House, as would show to the world that it was possible to try too far the patience of a good-humoured democracy; a Ministry which was always making wars without gaining its end, while the head of the Government which preceded it always gained his point without making war. Mr. BORLASE sympathised to a great extent with the amendment, and hoped than an assurance would be given that our troops would not be employed in any permanent occupation of the Soudan. At the same time he felt that if the troops should not be sent, we would have General Brackenbury and Lord Wolseley in the same position as General Gordon was, and he must support the Government. Mr. LONG condemned the policy of the Government, who having sent Gordon out afterwards deserted him, and who were now fighting without knowing what they were fighting for. Mr. ARNOLD saw nothing in the resolution but retrospective censure, and although errors had been committed they were not confined to the Government. Mr. ASHMEAD-BARTLEET asserted that the Government were responsible for the death of General Gordon, as they were also for the previous massacre at Berber. As to the future, they ought to take in hand the administration of Egypt for a certain number of years by arrangement with the Sultan of Turkey, and they were bound to establish a stable and honest government in the Soudan. Mr. TREVELYAN contended that the bombardment of Alexandria, the expedition for the defence of the garrisons on the Red Sea, the sending out of General Gordon, and the expedition to relieve him, were all approved by hon. members on the Conservative side. Replying to Mr. Morley, he described the question upon which the Cabinet had to decide on the 5th February as one in which they had an army of 5,000 men in the heart of Africa 1,400 miles away from the city from which they had set out, divided into three bodies in the face of a powerful enemy, flushed with a recent success. What, he asked, could a Government do under such circumstances but let the army feel that they would spare no effort to make their position secure? As to the question of entering into communication with the Mahdi, the Government respected him as an enemy, and hoped it would be possible that he might be an element in the pacification of the Soudan, but attempts at negotiation with an army in the country would be courting the fate which befel the army of Sir W. Macnaghten in Afghanistan. Mr. GIBSON sarcastically ascribed to the Prime Minister the power of refusing to see that which everyone saw. He said Berber was safe and within three weeks 5,000 men were slaughtered in its capture, and he refused to see that General Gordon was in any danger, when his life was a march against time. The only explanation of this deadly torpor and patent apathy was that the Government were unable to make up their minds—Mr. Gladstone expressing dissent, he added, amid great Opposition cheering, if they had not that excuse, they had none. During the last twelve months the Government were unable to point to a single request of Gordon's that they had complied with. Unfulfilled responsibility involved criminal disgrace, and they had deliberately gambled with the life of a hero of heroes. Gordon did his best, and the Cabinet did its worst. They came again and asked to be trusted, but even now they wanted a clear answer to the question, what was to be their policy? The only statement was vague and contradictory. They go to Khartoum to please the Whigs; they run away from it to please the Radicals. They had been unreliable in the past, and they would be unreliable in the future. Mr. GOSCHEN trusted the Government would show that they did not intend to go to Khartoum to please the Whigs, and retire from it to please the Radicals, for if there was one thing more than another that was required in connection with the subject it was to know what the policy of the Government was. He appealed to them to take the House into their confidence. What were the negotiations now going on with the Turkish Ambassador? What did the appointment of Prince Hassan mean? What were the Italians doing? All these things led to the question, what was to be the future of that Egypt which had cost us so much? The statements of the Government were of too shadowy a character in regard to Khartoum. The Prime Minister said they must break the power of the Mahdi. He could not say that they had placed before the House sufficient evidence to justify that course,

Was it undertaken only to permit the retreat of our army, or was it to show in the East the omnipotence of our arms? He would consider any scheme for a settlement which did not afford security to the natives about the Nile as unsatisfactory, and he would regard a protectorate of those districts as of far more importance than breaking the power of the Mahdi at Khartoum. If the Government undertook not to leave the Soudan until they had secured the safety of those tribes he would vote for them, but if they simply confined themselves to breaking the power of the Mahdi at Khartoum he should vote for the motion. On the motion of Mr. CHAPLIN, the debate was adjourned. Some other business was disposed of, and

The House adjourned at twenty-five minutes to 1 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

The afternoon sitting was spent mainly in a discussion of Mr. Sellar's Private Legislation Bill. In moving the second reading, Mr. SELLAR reviewed the rise and progress of the present system, and dwelt with numerous instances on the chief objections—its costliness and uncertainty, and the waste of Parliamentary time and energy. During the last eleven years no less than seven millions had been spent on private Bills, and he mentioned the fate of the Manchester Ship Canal Bill as an illustration, not merely of the expense of the system, but also of its haphazard results. In addition to these objections he argued that if the principle of "delegation" to Grand Committees was carried further it would be impossible to man the Private Bill Committees; and, on the whole, he contended that no remedy was possible except a substitution of some other system for the present. The Bill proposed to vest the judicial functions of Select Committees in an external tribunal of three Judges with salaries of £5,000 each, sitting in London, but empowered to hold local inquiries if desirable. The other stages of private Bills would not be affected, and the legislative functions of Parliament would be fully preserved. Sir J. PEASE moved an amendment suggesting that opposed private Bills should be referred to joint committees of both Houses of Parliament, and objecting to the delegation of legislative functions to paid judges or tribunals. As to the cost of private Bill legislation, it was of very little consequence compared with the large amount of money expended in the execution of works authorised by them. He was unable to see the advantage of the judicial principle being imported into inquiries of the House, and doubted the possibility of three judges being able to get through the business which would come before them. It was one of the advantages of the present system that committees were not bound by precedent, but would decide matters in accordance with the spirit of the times. As to local inquiries, he denied that they would save expense. Mr. GREGORY, waiving the amendment which stood in his name, seconded Sir J. Pease's, and having referred to his long and professional experience in private Bill legislation, expressed an opinion that the grievances alleged were not so great as they were said to be, and he deprecated the appointment of judicial tribunals of both Houses. Mr. TORRENS spoke against the Bill, and recommended an application to the House of Lords to consult with the House of Commons as to how private Bill legislation could be improved. Mr. A. EGERTON supported the amendment, and Mr. DAVEY spoke in favour of the Bill. Mr. SCLATER-BOOTH opposed the Bill on the ground that matters discussed before Private Bill Committees were for the most part questions of public expediency which would not be so satisfactorily dealt with by paid judges as they were under the present system. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in stating the views of the Government, sympathised with the objects of the Bill so far as they attempted to get rid of the great waste of time and expense which private Bill legislation entailed, and quoted the authority of the Commission of 1863 in favour of joint committees of both Houses. Pointing out various objections to and defects of the proposed scheme, he suggested a withdrawal of the Bill, and promised that if the subject were left for the consideration of the new Parliament, the Government would assist in its solution. Mr. RAIKES, however, thought it would be more advisable that the Bill should be read a second time and sent to a Select Committee on the understanding that it would not be pressed further this year, but that the report should be reserved for the consideration of the new Parliament. Although he should vote for the second reading of the Bill, he did not approve all the details, which he criticised at length, and suggested a larger resort to the system of provisional orders. Sir L. PLAYFAIR supported the Bill as an improvement on the present system: and Sir J. MOWBRAY, as Chairman of the Committee of Selection, bore testimony to the extreme difficulty of manning Select Committees at the present moment. Mr. LAING opposed the Bill, which, he thought, would lead to an increase of lobbying; and Sir A. OTWAY, while approving the principle of the Bill, recommended Mr. Sellar to take the course suggested by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Sir H. HOLLAND, Mr. R. PAGET, and Mr. WARTON spoke; and Mr. SELLAR offered to consent to the Bill being referred to a Select Committee if read a second time. On a division, the second reading was negatived by 160 to 58; and the further debate on Sir J. Pease's resolution was adjourned.

Lord G. HAMILTON gave notice that in the event of Mr. Morley's amendment to the vote of censure becoming the main question, he would move to insert in it words declaring that the Government has failed to give any indication of its policy which justifies the confidence of the House and the country.

The House adjourned at five minutes to 6 o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

There was a large attendance of Peers on both sides. The Prince of Wales was in his place on the cross benches. The Peeresses' galleries were entirely occupied, and the spaces in front of the Throne and outside the bar were covered by the sons of Peers and members of the House of Commons.

Lord SALISBURY, in moving—

That this House, having taken into consideration the statements that have been made on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, is of opinion that the deplorable failure of the Soudan Expedition to attain its object has been due to the undecided councils of the Government and to the culpable delay attending the commencement of operations; that the policy of abandoning the whole of the Soudan after the conclusion of military operations will be dangerous to Egypt and inconsistent with the interests of the Empire—

invited their lordships to pass a judgment on the action of the Government in the past and to express an opinion as to the policy of the future, now that we were in one of the gravest crises which this country had ever experienced. He could not accuse the Government of entire inconsistency, because there was a rule of conduct in the following of which they had been consistent—namely, an unwillingness to come to any decision until the last moment, and to decide on action when the time for action had already passed. Theirs was a from-hand-to-mouth policy. Their having taken action too late led to the bombardment of Alexandria. Then, while continually disclaiming responsibility, they advised Egypt to abandon the Soudan. It was impossible to conceive a more stupendous political blunder than that. It was a proclamation to our enemies that they should enjoy impunity, and to our friends that they would be handed over without mercy to those who claimed to overcome them. The fate of the garrison of Khartoum was brought home to them forcibly, but did they take any reasonable measures for its relief? Did they send any troops on which they could rely to defend the garrison? No, they adopted the absurd and Quixotic plan of taking advantage of the chivalry and devotion of one of the noblest spirits our age has seen, by sending him forward on the impossible and hopeless errand of accomplishing by mere words and promises that which they had not the courage to do by force of arms. (Opposition cheers.) From that commencement, the abandonment of the Soudan to the mission of General Gordon, all our subsequent troubles arose. But that was not all, for among those garrisons in the Soudan were those of Sinkat and Tokar, which, so far back as November, 1883, were severely pressed by the Mahdi's lieutenants, and their danger was announced to the Government as extreme. But for three months they took no notice of that danger. They allowed the matter to be left to General Baker and a body of Egyptians, whose worthlessness was denounced in every page of the correspondence that was laid before them. Of course, General Baker with such a force was inevitably defeated; but it was not until April or May—I think not till a vote of censure was announced—that the Government determined on making an effort to do that which they ought to have done, and which, if they had not been asleep, they would have done three months before—namely, to relieve the garrisons of Sinkat and Tokar. (Opposition cheers.) And when the resolution came at last—when the necessity dawned upon their minds—they plunged into it with their usual imprudence and want of plan. They sent men down to Souakim apparently with no ideas as to what those men were to do, and before they could take effective measures Sinkat had fallen and the garrison of Tokar, giving up in despair, had surrendered themselves. Then the aimlessness of the Government was revealed. Having landed their forces they would not expose themselves to the ridicule of taking them away without doing anything, so they slaughtered 6,000 Arabs, and then came away absolutely without any result for the blood of their friends and enemies shed. They came away guilty of all this bloodshed, because they had plunged into the enterprise without any definite view of any fixed plan by which they proposed to guide themselves. (Cheers.) Now, my Lords, these three things, the case of the bombardment of Alexandria, the abandonment of the Soudan, and the mission of General Graham's force—they are all on the same plan, and they all show that remarkable characteristic of torpor during the time that action was needed, and of impulsive, hasty, and ill-considered action when the moment for action had passed by. Their future conduct was modelled on their conduct in the past, and to show, as he put it, that the laws of motion of even so eccentric a comet as the Government could be calculated beforehand, he read a passage from one of his own speeches to their Lordships, in which he had warned Ministers that they would be found sending out an expedition to rescue General Gordon when it would be too late; but the Government delayed action in the matter from April to August. Now, the terrible responsibility and blame which rests upon them does so because they were warned in March and April of the danger of General Gordon; they had received every intimation which men could reasonably look for that his danger would be extreme, and delayed it from March and April right down to August 15 before they took a single measure. What were they doing all that time? It is very difficult to conceive. Some people have said, "I think it is an unreasonable supposition that the cause of the tardiness of Her Majesty's Government was the accession to the Cabinet of the noble earl the Secretary for the Colonies (Earl of Derby). I have quoted partly with the object of defending the noble lord from that charge, for I have quoted to show that the Government were almost as bad before he joined them as they were after. (Laughter.) What happened during these eventful months? I suppose one day some memoirs will tell our grandchildren, but we shall never know. Some people think there were divisions in the Cabinet, and that after division and division the decision was put off in order that the Cabinet should not be broken up. I am rather inclined to think that it was due to the peculiar position of the Prime Minister. He came in as the apostle of the Midlothian campaign, loaded with the doctrines and the follies of that pilgrimage. (Cheers.) We have seen it on each occasion, after each one of these mishaps, when the Government has been forced by events and the common sense of the nation to take some more active steps. We have seen how his extreme supporters in that campaign have reproached him as he deserted their opinions and disappointed their ardent hopes. I think that he always felt the danger of that reproach and the debt he had incurred to those supporters, and felt a dread lest they should break away and put off again and again till the last practical moment any action which might bring him into open conflict with the doctrines by which his present eminence was gained. At all events, this is clear, that throughout those six months the Government knew perfectly well the danger in which General Gordon was placed. It has been said that General Gordon did not ask for troops. Well, I am surprised at that defence. One of the characteristics of General Gordon was the extreme abnegation of his nature. It was not to be expected that he should send home a telegram to say, "I am in great danger; therefore send me troops." He would probably have cut off his right hand before he would have sent such a telegram. But he did send a telegram that the people of Khartoum were in danger, and that the Mahdi must win unless military succour was sent forward, and distinctly telling the Government—and this is the main point—that unless they would consent to his views the supremacy of the Mahdi was assured. This is what he said not later than February 29, almost as soon as he first saw the nature of the problem with which he had been sent to deal. It is impossible that General Gordon could have spoken more clearly than he did; but Mr. Power, who was one of the three Englishmen in Khartoum, and who was sent down with Stewart on that ill-fated journey, on the 23rd of March sent a telegram saying:—"We are daily expecting British troops; we cannot bring ourselves to believe that we are to be abandoned by the Government. Our existence depends on England." (Cheers.) My Lords, is it conceivable that after that—two months after that—in May, the Prime Minister should have said that the Government were waiting to have reasonable proof that Gordon was in danger? By that time Khartoum was surrounded, and the Governor of Berber had announced that his case was desperate, which was too surely proved by the massacre which took place in June. And yet in May Mr. Gladstone was waiting for reasonable proof that they were in danger. Apparently he did not get that proof till August. I cannot understand what blindness fell over the eyes of some members of the Government. Lord Hartington, on the 13th of May, gave utterance to this expression:—"I say it would be an indelible disgrace if we should neglect any means at the disposal of this country for saving General Gordon." And after that announcement by the Minister chiefly responsible three months elapsed before any step was taken for doing that which he admitted the Government were bound to do under the penalty of indelible disgrace. It has been said that Gordon was destroyed by treachery, and that treachery would have happened at any time when the British army came near Khartoum. What does that extraordinary theory mean? It means that the Mahdi had agreed with Faragh Bey that it was much more comfortable to go on besieging, and that until Lord Wolseley made it dangerous they would go on besieging. I think those who started that unreasonable theory could hardly have been aware of the straits to which the Mahdi had been put. But, supposing it was true that treachery was certain to do its work, what does that prove? Does it not show that sending Gordon to Khartoum was an act of extreme folly? I do not know any other instance in which a man has been sent to maintain such a position without a certain number of British troops. If the British troops had been there treachery would have been impossible, but sending Gordon by himself to rely on the fidelity of Africans and Egyptians was an act of extreme rashness, and if the Government succeed in proving, which I do not think they can, that treachery was inevitable they only pile up an additional reason for their condemnation. (Cheers.) I confess it is very difficult to separate this question from the personal matters involved. It is very difficult to argue it on purely abstract grounds without turning for a moment to the character of the man who was engaged and the terrible position in which he was placed. When we consider all that he underwent, all that he sacrificed in order to serve the Government in a moment of extreme exigency, there is something infinitely pathetic in reflecting on his feelings, as day after day, week after week, month after month passed by—as he spared no exertions, no personal sacrifice, to perform the duties that were placed upon him—as he lengthened out the siege by inconceivable prodigies of ingenuity, of activity, of resource—(cheers)—and as, in spite of it all, in spite of the deep devotion to his country, which had prompted him to this great risk and undertaking, the conviction gradually grew upon him that his country had abandoned him. (Cheers.) It is terrible to think what he must have suffered when at last, as a desperate measure to save those he loved, he parted with the only two Englishmen with whom during those long months he had had any converse, and sent Stewart and Power down the river to escape from the fate which had become inevitable to himself. It is very painful to think of the reproaches to his country and to his country's Government that must have passed through the mind of that devoted man during those months of unmerited desertion. (Cheers.) In Gordon's letter of the 14th of December he said:—"All is up. I expect a catastrophe in ten days' time; it would not have been so if our people had kept me better informed as to their intentions." They had no intentions to inform him of. (Cheers.) They were merely acting from hand to mouth to avert the Parliamentary censure with which they were threatened. (Hear, hear.) They had no plan, they had no intentions to carry ont. If they could have known their intentions a great hero would have been saved to the British Army, a great disgrace would not have fallen on the English Government. (Cheers.) Now, by the light of this sad history, what are the prospects for the future? Was there ever a time when clearness of plan and distinctness of policy were more required than they are now? I am not going to say that the policy of the Government is bad. It would be paying them an extravagant compliment if I said so. They have no policy. (Cheers.) My right hon. friend Mr. Gibson epigrammatically described their policy when he said, "They were going to Khartoum to please the Whigs, and were going to abandon Khartoum to please the Radicals." (Laughter.) Is there not something strange that at such a crisis of our country's fate, in both Houses of Parliament, in the press, in society, and everywhere you hear people asking what is their policy, and can get no answer. Here and there you get a distant echo of policy, something vague and ill-defined, like a distant sound to which you can attach no definite meaning. You sometimes for a moment see the phantom of a policy, but if you try to grasp it, it escapes you. We used to think the policy of the Government was the evacuation of the Soudan as soon as the military operations were over—a very bad policy—but even that does not seem to be their policy. They do not know whether they are going to evacuate the Soudan or not. They don't know who is to hold the Soudan—it may be the Italians, it may be the Turks, or the Chinese. On one point only do they put down their foot, and that is that the Egyptians shall not keep it. They were told that the Mahdi must be smashed, but the smashing of the Mahdi would not meet the requirements of the case. It appears to me that in this matter of our Egyptian policy, though I do not say we can lay down the precise steps by which our ends may be obtained—still, it is time when we should conceive to ourselves what the ends of our policy are to be, and clearly define it and follow it up with consistency and persistency. Now, let us examine what are the interests of England in this matter. With Mediterranean politics as such we have no great interest to concern ourselves; but Egypt stands in a peculiar position. It is the road to India. The condition of Egypt can never be indifferent to us, and more than that, we have a duty to insist—that our influence shall be predominant there. I do not care by what technical arrangements that result is to be obtained; but, with all due regard to the rights of the Suzerain, the influence of England in Egypt must be supreme. Now, the influence of England in Egypt is threatened from two sides. It is threatened from the North diplomatically. I do not think it is necessary that the Powers should have taken up the position they have done, and I believe that with decent steering it might have been avoided; but, unfortunately, we have to face inchoate schemes which will demand the utmost jealousy and vigilance of Parliament. I do not know what arrangement the Government has arrived at, but I greatly fear that it may include a multiple control, and to that I believe this country will be persistently and resolutely hostile. But we have to face a danger of another kind. We have forces of fanatical barbarians let loose upon the South of Egypt, and owing to the blunders that have been committed this danger has reached a terrible height. Unless we intend to give over Egypt to barbarism and anarchy we must contrive to check this inroad of barbarian fanaticism which is personified in the character and action of the Mahdi. General Gordon never said a truer thing than that you do this by simply drawing a military line. If the insurgent Mohammedans reach the North of Egypt it will not be so much by their military force, as by the moral power of their example. We have therefore to check this advance of the Mahdi's power. Her Majesty's Government in the glimpses of policy which they occasionally afford us have alluded to the possibility of setting up a good government in the Soudan. I quite agree that a good government is essential to us in the Soudan. It is the only dyke we can really erect to keep out this inundation of barbarian and fanatical forces. But Her Majesty's Government speak as if a good government were a Christmas present, which you can give a country and then go away. A good government, like any other organisation, must pass through the stages of infancy to maturity. There must be a long stage of infancy, during which that government is unable to defend itself, and it requires during that period protection and security, which it can only derive from the action of an external Power. It is that protection and security which England must give. She must not desert her task in the Soudan until there is that government there which can protect Egypt, in which the interests of this country are vital. I do not say whether it should be done from the Nile or from Souakim. I see a noble lord, one of the greatest ornaments of this House, who has conducted an expedition, not of 250 miles, but of 400, and that with success, over the same burning country, and his opinion, given last year, was that Souakim and Berber are the roads by which we should advance. In that opinion I do not say I concur—that would be impertinent—but it is an opinion to which I humbly subscribe. I believe that by the Souakim and Berber route we may obtain a hold over that portion of the Soudan which may enable us to perform our primary duty—namely, to repress the forces of barbarism and fanaticism, to encourage that civilisation which, if protected, will find such abundant root in that fertile country, and, above all, to restrain, check, and ultimately to destroy the slave trade, which has been the curse of Africa. (Cheers.) All those advantages can be obtained if England will lay down a definite policy and will adhere to it, but consistency of policy is absolutely necessary. (Cheers.) We have to assure our friends that we shall stand by them; we have to assure our enemies that we are permanently to be feared. The blunders of the last three years have placed us in the presence of terrible problems and difficulties. We have great sacrifices to make. We are not so strong as we were. At first all nations sympathised with us, but now they look on us coldly and even with hostility. Those who were our friends have become indifferent, those who were indifferent have become our adversaries; and if our misfortunes and disasters go on much longer we shall have Europe saying that they cannot trust us, that we are too weak, that our prestige is too low to justify us in undertaking this. My Lords, those great dangers can only be faced by a consistent policy, which can only be conducted by a Ministry capable of unity of counsel and decision of purpose. (Cheers.) I have shown you that from this Ministry we can expect no such results. (Cheers.) They can only produce after their kind. They will only do what they have already done. You cannot look for unity of counsel from an Administration that is hopelessly divided. You cannot expect a resolute policy from those whose purpose is hopelessly halting. (Cheers.) It is for this reason, my Lords, that I ask you to record your opinion that from a Ministry in whom the first of all qualities—the quality of decision of purpose—is wanting, you can hope no good in this crisis of our country's fate. (Cheers.) And if you continue to trust them, if for any party reasons Parliament continues to abandon to their care the affairs which they have hitherto so hopelessly mismanaged, you must expect to go on from bad to worse; you must expect to lose the little prestige which you retain; you must expect to find in other portions of the world the results of the lower consideration that you occupy in the eyes of mankind; you must expect to be drawn on, degree by degree, step by step, under the cover of plausible excuses, under the cover of highly philanthropic sentiments, to irreparable disasters, and to disgrace that it will be impossible to efface. (Loud cheers.)

Lord WENTWORTH argued for a policy of non-interference. He moved an amendment expressing regret at the sacrifice in Egypt and the Soudan, and declaring that British forces should not occupy the Soudan to prevent the Egyptian people from selecting their own government. Lord NORTHBROOK, for the Government, refused to accept the amendment, and, in reply to Lord SALISBURY, argued that

Ministers had acted with discretion and without unnecessary delay, and that when the leader of the Opposition urged them to action early last year there was no good reason for supposing that General Gordon could not hold out. He maintained that Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues had announced a policy, and he accused Lord Salisbury of having afforded them no aid in the solution of the Egyptian difficulty, and of now recommending the reconquering for Egypt of the abandoned portions of the Soudan—a policy which Lord SALISBURY at once rose and repudiated. Lord NORTHBROOK, in conclusion, said the Government could not accept the policy indicated in the second part of the motion, their policy being to hold only their own and at the same time to increase as much as possible the trade of Egypt. The Duke of RICHMOND and GORDON denied that the Opposition ought to have formed a policy for the Government, and contended that they had fulfilled their duty by pointing out where the Government were going wrong. He contended that not only in Egypt, but abroad generally, in the colonies, and at home, the Government had failed because they were a divided Cabinet, no two of them thoroughly agreeing on any one point. He expressed his opinion that, whatever might be the fate of the motion of censure now before the other House, the time was near at hand when Ministers would be driven by the indignant voice of the conntry from the offices which they had discredited. Lord HUNTLY, while not able to approve everything the Government had done, thought that on the whole they deserved support; while Lord BRABOURNE described their policy as one of drift and dawdle, and said Gordon had been sacrificed to the political exigencies of the Ministry. Lord THURLOW against and Lord JERSEY for the vote of censure continued the debate during the dinner hour. Lord BURY maintained that if the Government had thought fit to do so they might have prevented the advance and slaughter of Hicks Pasha and his small force, and tracing closely the course of events up to the fall of Khartoum he threw the whole responsibility of the calamitous failure on the Government, who had delayed from February, when they received the first warning, until the end of August before they took active steps to support Gordon by an expedition. Lord MORLEY defended the selection of the Nile route for the late expedition; but Lord WATERFORD wanted to know why the Government now adopted the Souakim and Berber route if that by the Nile was the best one. He joined with those who accused the Government of having utterly abandoned General Gordon; and he assailed their conduct in the matter as amounting to treachery.

Lord DERBY informed their Lordships that no member of the Government regretted that this motion had been brought forward. Holding the views they did the Opposition had done quite right in bringing it forward; and whild not claiming infallibility the Government were prepared to take the responsibility of what they had said and done, and of what they had left unsaid and undone. In a severely argumentative defence of their policy, the noble Lord observed that though Lord Salisbury regarded the mission of General Gordon as an impossible and hopeless errand, that was not the view of it held by the General himself. He also reverted to the theory that treachery would have caused the fall of Khartoum at any time the British troops reached that place, though, as he said, Lord Salisbury treated that theory with ridicule. He stated that while the Government would protect Egypt they were pledged to Europe not to keep it. Lord HARROWBY thought that Ministers were condemned out of the mouth of Lord Derby. The country wanted action, having had talk enough, but all that the Government had to offer it was a repetition of the Ministerial words of a year ago. He attributed the delay in sending relief to an expectation on the part of the Government that Gordon would run away from Khartoum.

On the motion of Lord CAMPERDOWN the debate was adjourned at five minutes to 12.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The adjourned debate on the vote of censure was resumed by Mr. CHAPLIN, who dwelt on the mischief which had been wrought in Egypt and the Soudan by the indecision and delays of the Government, and by their refusal to acknowledge their responsibilities. Canvassing Mr. Goschen's speech, he expressed his disapproval of the alternative policy which he had suggested, and predicted that before many weeks the craven cowardice of the Government and their black betrayal of Gordon would meet with punishment at the hands of an outraged people and indignant nation. Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT declined to take notice of the charges of treachery or intentional neglect of Gordon, and applied himself to answer the imputations of error of judgment. In the light of subsequent events he admitted the Government were wrong in sending Gordon, and that the idea of withdrawing the garrisons by peaceful means was a delusion. He replied *seriatim* to the various items of the impeachment against the Government—that they had not sent Zobehr or Turkish troops or a detachment from Graham's force—and contended that they had used all diligence in despatching Lord Wolseley, and that but for treachery that expedition would have been in time. As to the future, he said he never would have been a party to going to Khartoum for the sake of annexing the Soudan either to this country or Egypt, nor for revenge, but solely because it was the only mode in which an evacuation of the Soudan could be effected with safety to Egypt. Replying to Mr. Goschen's demand for stricter declarations of policy, he said it was impossible for a responsible Government to commit itself beforehand to a settlement which must depend greatly on the outcome of operations which could not yet be foreseen; and he criticised severely the alternative plan of holding Berber, propounded by Mr. Goschen. As to the policy indefinitely shadowed out in the motion, if it meant the permanent occupation of Egypt it was the most dangerous policy that could be conceived. England could not administer in Egypt, where several nations had interests, as she administered in India, and the longer we remained in Egypt the greater would be the responsibilities we should incur. The Government, he said, did not go there with the idea of remaining, and if the House wished them to do so, it must bear in mind that it would necessitate the annexation both of Egypt and the Soudan. Sir R. A. CROSS twitted the Government with having refused the request General Gordon had made, in direct violation of all the promises given by the Prime Minister in May last, and he argued that the Government ought long ago to have done that which they were now preparing to do. He denied the oft-repeated allegation that the Conservative party had no policy. It was apparent in the motion before the House, and the basis of it was that a good and safe government should be firmly established both in Egypt and the Soudan. After what had been done we must stay in Egypt and recognise and act up to the responsibilities which the Government had heaped upon us, and he declared that the Conservative party were quite prepared to take upon themselves those responsibilities if their motion were successful. The present Government, he argued, could not escape from their many entanglements and disaster must be the result of their policy; but he believed that by a change of Government more than half the difficulties which existed would be overcome. Mr. MUNTZ agreed that the dual control was the beginning of all the mischief, but pointed out that we might have broken it after Arabi's insurrection, just as the French broke it. He had no wish to turn out the Government, but he thought that the House and the country would not consent to an indefinite expenditure of men and money unless the Government gave some reasonable outline of their general policy. His vote, he said, would depend on the explanations which might be forthcoming. Sir F. MILNER gave an emphatic contradiction to the rumour that the Opposition were intending to be beaten. On the contrary, they were ready to accept the responsibilities of office, notwithstanding its dangers and difficulties. He charged the Government with having caused Gordon's fate by neglecting or refusing to comply with every request for assistance, and he dwelt principally on the refusal to send Zebehr Pasha and the failure to open the Souakim-Berber route last year. Mr. W. CARTWRIGHT was also among those who required further explanations from the Government before he could vote for them, and hoped that some responsible Minister before the debate was over would condescend to give some assurance that they were not about to undertake another enterprise of useless slaughter. Sir R. PEEL in a lively speech criticised the Home Secretary's attempted reply to Mr. Goschen. He wished to know in what way the new departure of the Government would strengthen their hands or arrest the drifting into a hopeless, defenceless, and miserable position. It was time the Conservative party should declare a policy, and this he said, amid much laughter, would be found tacitly implied in the motion. He asked for some explanation of the circumstances under which the Italian Government had sent a force to Massowah, feeling certain that they would not have done this without an understanding with the Government, and concluded with an emphatic protest against a war of revenge. Sir C. DILKE, after some recriminatory references to the dual control and the responsibilities of the last Government, which were met with flat contradictions from the front Opposition bench, took up the defence of the Government at the point where the expedition was decided on, and related various measures which had been taken in other directions to relieve Gordon by other means. He insisted that Gordon always had plenty of provisions, and that his death was due to treachery which no action on the part of the Government could have averted. Turning to the questions which had been addressed to the Government as to their policy in the future, he viewed the relations of England with the various European Powers—laying stress on the close friendship which exists between this country and Italy. He gave an assurance that the Government would not abandon those who had been of service to this country in the Soudan, and would use all reasonable means to leave behind them in the Soudan astate of tranquillity, but beyond this the Government could not go. Mr. MARRIOTT, in vigorous language, adversely criticised the policy of the Government, and Mr. BRYCE having expressed dissatisfaction with the Ministerial defence of the past, strongly dissuaded the Government from any forward policy in the future.

The debate was then adjourned on the motion of Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, and the House adjourned at ten minutes to 1 o'clock.

POLITICAL AND PERSONAL.

The Army Estimates, issued on Thursday morning as a Parliamentary paper, show that the total estimate for 1885-86 is £17,820,700, as against £17,905,600 in 1884-85, and £15,975,537 in 1883-84. There is, therefore, a net decrease as compared with last year of £84,900, but it is added that the expenditure for the camgaign in the Soudan will be provided by means of a special vote. It may be remarked, however, that the estimates of last year failed to meet the expenditure, and large supplementary estimates were afterwards voted. On the original estimate of last year, and without taking into consideration the supplementary estimates, the estimated expenditure for the coming year exceeds the original estimate of last year by £1,890,100. The total number of men provided for is 142,194, against 140,314 last year. The items of decrease in the vote are £600,000 for provisions, forage, fuel, transport and other services; £81,000 for clothing, establishments, services, and supplies, and £42,800 for commissariat, transport, and ordnance store establishments, wages, etc.; while the principal items of increase are £493,300 for supply, manufacture, and repair of warlike and other stores, £63,000 for the pay of the general staff, regimental pay, and allowances, and other charges, £57,300 for superintending the establishment of and expenditure for works, buildings, and repairs at home and abroad, £41,500 for the Army Reserve force pay and allowances, and £37,500 for the volunteer corps pay and allowances. The number of men already noticed as being provided for is simply the total on the home and colonial establishments, exclusive of those serving in India; but the actual total of the forces on the home, colonial, and Indian establishments is 653,772, of which the effectives of all ranks, according to latest returns, are 577,334.

The Navy Estimates for 1885-86, whish were issued on Tuesday morning as a Parliamentary paper, show that they amount this year to £12,396,500, as against £11,185,770 in 1884-85, and £10,899,500 in 1883-84. The largest items of increase are £876,600 for machinery and ships built by contract, £173,200 for new works, buildings, yard machinery, and repairs, £167,500 for naval stores, £61,700 for dockyards and naval yards at home and abroad, £58,450 for victuals and clothing for seamen and marines, £17,650 for wages to ditto, and £15,600 for military pensions and allowances. In the various appendices appear statements as to the ships building and completing for sea in the home dockyards and at Malta in 1885-86, and as to the ship-building work to be executed by contract in the same period. In the former are eleven ironclads (two of which are to be commenced, five to be advanced, and four to be completed), five protected ships (one to be commenced, three to be advanced, and one to be completed), three steel steam cruisers, a corvette, and two despatch-vessels (all to be completed), three steel torpedo cruisers (one to be commenced, one to be advanced, and the third to be completed), five composite gun-vessels (one to be commenced, two to be advanced, and two to be completed), two steel gun and torpedo vessels (one to be advanced and the other to be completed), and one new steam mooring lighter (to be advanced). The ships which are being built or which are to be built by contract are the armoured vessel *Benbow*, of 6,600 tons, now being built on the Thames; the two despatch vessels *Surprise* and *Alacrity*, now being built at Jarrow-on-Tyne; the two steel torpedo cruisers *Scout* and *Fearless*, the former of which is being built on the Clyde and the latter at Barrow-in-Furness; the composite gun-vessel *Acorn*, now being built at Milford Haven; four new gun-boats, which have not yet been ordered; the steam tank *Bann*, now being built at Cork; and four first-class and two second-class torpedo boats now being built on the Thames. This is the total ordinary building, but beyond these seventeen vessels twenty-three additional vessels are to be built—namely, two ironclads, five belted cruisers, six steel torpedo cruisers ("New Scouts"), and ten first-class torpedo boats, but none of these have yet been ordered. The total number of vessels to be built this year as compared with last is seventy-three against thirty-nine, while the tonnage to be built is 28,052 against 20,679. The number of vessels to be built by contract this year is forty against ten last year, while the total to be built in Her Majesty's dockyards is thirty-three against twenty-nine.

A Supplementary Estimate of Her Majesty's Navy for the year 1884-85 has been issued. This is an estimate of the further amount which will be required during the year ending March 31, 1885, beyond the sums already provided in the grants for Navy services for that year, to meet additional expenditure arising out of the military operations in Egypt, and connected with shipbuilding in Her Majesty's dockyards. The several items are as follows:—Wages, &c., to seamen and Marines, £10,000; victuals and clothing for seamen and Marines, £19,000; dockyards and naval yards at home and abroad, £8,000; medical establishments at home and abroad, £2,000; naval stores for building and repairing the fleet, £30,000; medicines and medical stores, £2,000; miscellaneous services, £9,000; Army Department (conveyance of troops), £250,000; making a total of £330,000.

The first application of the *clôture* under the new rules of procedure was on the protest raised on Tuesday by the Irish members against the motion of the Prime Minister to give precedence, on a private members' right, to the adjourned debate on the Vote of Censure. Mr. J. Redmond, who otherwise would have had precedence with his motion challenging the conduct of the Irish executive in reference to the dismissal of a district inspector of constabulary, has now given notice that he will raise the question on going into Committee of Supply.

In the division on Tuesday evening against the application of the *clôture*, twenty-five English Conservatives and one English Radical (Mr. Labouchere) voted in the minority (forty-six). They were Mr. Aylmer, Mr. Bulwer, Lord Elcho, Mr. Finch-Hatton, Mr. Freshfield, Sir H. Giffard, Mr. Giles, Mr. Gorst, Mr. Halsey, Mr. Staveley Hill, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Lowther, Mr. M'Iver, Mr. Monckton, Viscount Newport, Mr. Ross, Mr. St. Aubyn, Lord H. Thynne, Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Warton, Mr. Whitley, Mr. Rowland Winn, Sir H. D. Wolff, Mr. Wyndham, and Mr. Yorke. Nineteen Home Rulers also voted in the minority, as did one Ulster Conservative—Mr. Ewart. The majority, 207, by which the *clôture* was applied, was only seven more than was necessary under the rules of procedure. It was made up of 161 English, thirty-nine Scotch, and five Irish members. Of 103 Irish members seventy-seven were absent, and of sixty Scotch but twenty-one.

It is stated that the promoters of Disestablishment intend to limit their action during the remainder of the present Parliament to the cases of Scotland and Wales, Mr. Richard's motion relative to the English Establishment being deferred until the election of a new Parliament. Mr. Peddie's Bill for the Disestablishment of the Scotch Church, which will shortly be issued, stands for second reading on Wednesday, the 6th of May. Mr. Dillwyn will ballot for his Welsh motion until he obtains a date. In addition to these ecclesiastical questions, the Burial Fees Bill is down for the 18th of March, and the Cemeteries Bill for the 22nd of April.

A Bill to amend the law as to oaths has been prepared and brought in by Mr. Hopwood, Mr. Stansfeld, Mr. Percy Wyndham, Mr. Charles Russell, Mr. Noel, Mr. Pennington, and Mr. Arthur Elliot. The text of the Bill is as follows:—"1. Every person shall be permitted to make his solemn affirmation, instead of taking an oath, in all places and for all purposes where an oath is or shall be required by law, which affirmation shall be of the same force and effect as if he had taken the oath; and if any person making such affirmation shall wilfully, falsely, and corruptly affirm any matter or thing which, if deposed on oath, would have amounted to wilful and corrupt perjury, he shall be liable to prosecution, indictment, sentence, and punishment in all respects as if he had committed wilful and corrupt perjury. 2. Every such affirmation shall be as follows:—'I, A. B., do solemnly, sincerely, and truly declare and affirm,' and then proceed with the words of the oath prescribed by law, omitting any words of imprecation or calling to witness. 3. This Act may be cited as the Affirmation Act, 1885."

The Lord Chancellor has reintroduced his Marriages Legalisation Bill, the object of which is to prevent certain formal defects from invalidating a marriage. It proposes to declare that no marriage celebrated in the United Kingdom in the past or in the future is to be deemed to have been invalid "by reason only of any want of lawful authority for the grant of any licence or certificate for the solemnisation thereof, or of any certificate of the publication or proclamation of banns in order to such marriage by any person acting as a public officer entitled to grant or issue such licence or certificate; or of any want of lawful authority for the solemnisation of marriages in the building or place where the same may have been solemnised, or by the person officiating as a minister of religion or otherwise in the solemnisation of such marriage; or of any irregularity in or relating to the publication of any banns or notice actually published in any church or registrar's office in order to such marriage." However, the measure is not to apply where the defect was known at the time to both the man and the woman, but the burden of proving this knowledge is to rest on the person who alleges it.

Sir Charles Dilke's Corporate Property Security Bill, which is intended to remove doubts as to the state of the law, applies to corporate or quasi-corporate associations established for the advancement of commerce, art, science, religion, or learning, or of the interests of certain trades or professions, or for any other non-trading purpose. Where it appears from the instruments relating to its establishment or from other evidence that an association of this kind was established with a view to a continued existence, the property belonging to it or held in trust for it is to be "deemed to be, and to have been, held on trust for the members for the time being of the association and their successors." From this provision, however, property affected by an express trust is excluded. And it is not to be lawful for the members for the time being, by arrangement or otherwise, to terminate the existence of the association without the leave of a Superior Court, or to apply the property to the benefit of the individual members, otherwise than in so far as is consistent with carrying the objects of the association into effect. The measure is not to apply to an association established for trading purposes, or to one by the constitution of which express power is given to the members to terminate its existence or to divide the property among themselves. Nor is it to apply to an association which proves to the satisfaction of a Superior Court that, by reason of its objects or the shortness of the time during which it has been established, the members are justified in dissolving it and in dividing the property. By the term "quasi-corporate association" is meant one in which the vacancies among the members are or may be filled up according to the regulations or practice of the association by the substitution of others from time to time, in such manner as to provide for the preservation of the continuity of the association.

Mr. R. N. Fowler, M.P., presided at a meeting held on Thursday afternoon, at the Cannon-street Hotel, at which addresses were delivered by Sir J. W. Ellis, M.P., Mr. Lionel L. Cohen, Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., Mr. Alderman Cotton, M.P., and Mr. Ritchie, M.P., upon the Egyptian policy of the Ministry, and a resolution was passed with enthusiasm declaring that the Government had forfeited the confidence of the country, and should be called upon to resign. This resolution, with others of like purport from various commercial centres, it was determined should be sent to the chiefs of the Conservative party.

The Redistribution Bill in its amended form was issued at the end of last week. It is expanded from twenty-six pages into a hundred and ten pages. Eighty-four of these pages are filled with the details of county and borough divisions, as suggested in the Report of the Boundary Commissioners. An error which was made in both the editions of the original Bill is now corrected. Stoke-upon-Trent was omitted from the list of boroughs to lose one member, and as the borough of Hanley appeared in the list of new boroughs, it seemed that Stoke, after parting with Hanley, which now belongs to it, was to retain its two members. This made it appear that the House was to be increased by thirteen members instead of twelve. In the amended Bill Stoke-upon-Trent is in the list of boroughs to lose one member, and consequently the original reckoning is made good. The Bill in its amended form contains a new and very important clause. This is Clause 10, which provides that the occupation in immediate succession of different premises, situat ewithin any division of a Parliamentary borough, shall, except in the case of lodgers, have the same effect in qualifying for a vote as though the successive occupations had all been in the same division. The effect of this provision is to apply to great towns, such as Birmingham and Manchester, now that they are divided, the same principle which applies to them in their present undivided state. Removal from one part to another of the same town will not involve the loss of a vote, as removal from one town to another does. In London, however, it does not restore the present state of things. A voter in Finsbury, for example, may retain his qualification if he removes from any one part of that borough to anyother—from St. Luke's or Clerkenwell, for example, to Islington. The rule will now apply only to the divisions of Islington itself. So with St. Pancras, with the two divisions of Marylebone and Paddington, and all the other divided boroughs of London. But removal from Westminster to the Strand or St. George's, Hanover-square, and so forth, will not be regarded as successive occupation, and will involve the setting up of a new qualification. Another important change in the Bill is the expansion of the original tenth clause, now the eleventh, by a whole page of new provisions. These relate chiefly to the duties of the returning officer and his deputies. In the twelfth clause, originally the eleventh, some words have been introduced requiring that the lists and registers of voters in a divided borough shall be arranged in parts corresponding to the divisions, and that the voters in each division shall be numbered in a separate series. The clause now numbered thirteen is a new one, and provides for the registration of freemen in divided boroughs. A new clause numbered fourteen applies part of the Corrupt Practices Act, 1883, to the divided borough or county, so that any person employed as paid agent, clerk, or messenger, in any one division shall be disqualified from voting in any of the other divisions.

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LONDON, February 28.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

There is not much news of importance from the Soudan for us to chronicle this week, but what there is may be regarded as fairly satisfactory as times go. We hear, indeed, no more of a dash upon Berber, and it is evident that all that Lord WOLSELEY now hopes is to hold his own until the autumn campaign. But it seems probable that the MAHDI is not inclined to take the offensive with any great vigour, and any immediate anxiety for the safety of our scattered forces is removed. We say immediate, as it would not be safe to rely on his continued inaction. An Arab organ already predicts his descent upon Egypt with a force largely increased by the junction of the tribes on his line of march. Even if he remains at Khartoum, his two valuable allies, heat and disease, may be relied upon by him to do their terrible work. Last Sunday much anxiety was felt as to General BULLER's little force, and many disquieting rumours were circulated. He has, however, succeeded in keeping his communications open, though much harassed by the enemy, who, taught by experience, have merely confined themselves to keeping up a well-directed fire from a safe distance, till dislodged from their position by a bold and clever manœuvre of Major WARDROP's. The position was at once occupied by General BULLER; and the latest intelligence is that he is within a day's march of Gakdul, and is expected at Korti next week. General BRACKENBURY's column continues its laborious and necessarily slow progress by the river; and though Lord WOLSELEY still maintains the superiority of that route, yet if time had been no object, the difficulties met with more than justify General STEPHENSON's unwillingness to adopt it. BRACKENBURY was still at some distance from Abu Hamed when the latest news from him arrived.

If the MAHDI is unusually quiescent, and hindered either by want of supplies or by the unwillingness of his men to face our forces from following up the advantage which he has gained by the capture of Khartoum, OSMAN DIGMA, on his part, is showing renewed activity, and threatens to attack Souakim before the reinforcements arrive. In view of this, the Naval Brigade have been busy erecting redoubts to protect the town, but unfortunately considerable damage has been done to them by night attacks. The brave garrison at Kassala, who have been overlooked of late while our attention has been centred on Khartoum, has won a brilliant victory over the Hadendowa Arabs, who attacked them while engaged in covering the advance of a much-needed convoy of grain from Massowah. The result of the victory was not only a great slaughter of the assailants, but also the safety of the convoy; yet we fear that the relief afforded by it is but temporary, and that unless some vigorous measures are taken to rescue the garrison or furnish them with further supplies, they will share the fate of Khartoum and of Sinkat. As the Italians have occupied Massowah, nobody seems to know exactly how or why, Mr. GLADSTONE repudiating them, and the Turks being violently indignant with them as well as with him, they might as well take in hand the delivery of the garrison, and thus justify their presence on the shores of the Red Sea against the will of the nominal ruler of the country, against the will of his suzerain, and without any avowed sanction from his English protector.

The absorbing interest of the events in the Soudan must not prevent us from having an eye to the fortunes of England in other parts of the world. No doubt the fact that all our available force is engaged in the contest—we suppose Mr. GLADSTONE will not allow us to say the war—against the MAHDI is an important element in any survey of our position as regards the rest of the world. Our many enemies, and also our half-hearted friends, are without doubt much influenced in the attitude which they assume towards us by this consideration. Even if we could credit Holy Russia with all the virtues of self-denial and of deep Christian spirit which our Midlothian MAHDI attributes to the great Empire of the North, we should feel a certain amount of anxiety as to the effect produced upon her statesmen by the knowledge that, owing to the fatuity of our rulers, they have so excellent an opportunity of working their will upon an opponent whose attention is entirely occupied elsewhere. It is, therefore, with a certain amount of not unnatural suspicion that we regard Russian action in Afghanistan. Mdme. DE NOVIKOFF may be prepared to prove that Russia is the lamb and England the wolf as far as the Afghan frontier is concerned. But Sir DOUGLAS FORSYTH, who is at least as competent an authority as Mdme. DE NOVIKOFF, gives a very different aspect to the question. His letter to the *St. James's Gazette* shows conclusively how unfounded is the latest charge which Russian diplomacy has made against the Afghans. It is much to be regretted that the settlement of the frontier line made by Sir DOUGLAS should not have been adopted by the English Government, and the neglect to give effect to his negotiations adds another to the long list of offences against the true interests of England with which Lord GRANVILLE is to be charged.

Of course, the question whether Penjdeh is Afghan or Turcoman is of considerable importance in arriving at a correct conclusion on the disputed claims of our avowed rival and our somewhat uncertain friend in the occupation of that village which recent events have brought into a prominence that it could hardly have been expected to attain under ordinary circumstances. The preposterous claim that wherever Turcoman cattle have pastured there the dominion of Russia extends in virtue of her victory over the Turcomans, hardly requires refutation. Nor can we admit the necessity of including within the Russian frontier all the pastures and salt-beds to which the Turcomans have been in the habit of resorting. This may be a specious pretext for a much nearer approach to Herat than could otherwise have been justified, and M. LESSUR's proposals have all the outward show of fairness at which Russian diplomacy is accustomed to aim. Much depends upon the attitude which our Government takes up, and if Mr. GLADSTONE or his successors will only speak out and make themselves the mouthpiece of the loudly expressed sense of the English nation we do not fear an annexation of Herat by the Muscovite. But if, as is but too probable, we are to have the same shilly-shally as regards the Afghan frontier which has been the general *mot d'ordre* of the foreign policy of the present Administration, we can hardly be surprised if the virtue of Russian diplomacy is unable to resist the strong temptation of making hay while Russia's sun shines, and while our sun is for a time overclouded.

Other subjects of Imperial interest, besides the all-important one of the safety of our Indian frontier on the side of Afghanistan, call for notice in our History of the Week. But while our attention is concentrated on the Soudan we can do little more than notice them, though in the division of labour which our system of Cabinet offices involves there ought to be ample room and scope enough for each of our Ministers to attend to subjects in his own department, as well as to the more

general subjects which attain to the dignity of Cabinet questions. Among these minor topics of interest—minor only as compared with the all-absorbing interests of the Soudan—are German aggressions in the Pacific and Boer aggressions in South Africa. Neither the one nor the other can be contemplated by ordinary Englishmen with the placid equanimity with which they are regarded by our COLONIAL SECRETARY. At present, so far as South Africa is concerned, as is so often the case, the agents employed by the Colonial Office have done their work admirably, and it only remains to hope that Sir CHARLES WARREN will be properly backed up by the home authorities. If, however, the Soudan policy is to be repeated in Bechuanaland, and as soon as Sir CHARLES WARREN has "smashed" the freebooters there he is promptly recalled before establishing a Government which can protect the natives and keep in order the land pirates, the result will be to add another to the long list of lamentable failures and painful responsibilities which Lord DERBY will leave as a legacy to his successor.

The debate on the Vote of Censure commenced on Monday, when Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE introduced it in a speech of studied moderation, which some of the more fiery members of the party have been inclined to call by a harder term. We ourselves, while thinking that the case against the Government was so strong that it could afford to be temperately and moderately stated, are inclined to agree that what it gained in clearness of exposition it lost in "go." It is not possible to avoid feeling some sorrow at the loss of so admirable an opportunity, and regretting that Lord SALISBURY had not been the descendant of the old Devonshire baronets, and Sir STAFFORD the heir of the CECILS. There was certainly no lack of power and vigour in the speech in which the Leader in the Upper House moved his Vote of Censure. In the House of Commons the Division at an early hour this morning resulted in favour of the Government by 302 votes to 288; while Lord SALISBURY's motion was carried by 189 votes to 68 in the Upper House.

But if Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE disappointed some of his friends, it is probable that Mr. GLADSTONE disappointed all his. No more feeble exhibition oratorically as well as morally has been witnessed of late years, and we are more accustomed to find Mr. GLADTONE's morality at fault than his oratory. The debate has not, as a whole, been worthy of the occasion, but Mr. GIBSON and one or two other of the Conservative speakers did their best to enliven it. Mr. GOSCHEN made a powerful speech which is likely to influence the division, as also is Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT'S, though not in the way in which the HOME SECRETARY intended.

The Egyptian Blue-books published this week, and utilised in the course of the debate in both Houses, contain a great deal of interesting but painful reading. Not only are they painful as revealing, even in the mutilated form in which they have been allowed to appear, the sad story of the neglect and abandonment by the English Government of the man whom they had sent forth to rescue not so much the inhabitants of Khartoum as the inhabitants of Downing-street, but they are yet more painful as revealing a new and unprecedented feature in English political life. We in England have not been accustomed to the doctoring process which in other countries is not unfamiliar. No one can read the documents without seeing what gaps and omissions there are in them as officially presented. We are told that the omissions are dictated by a tender regard for General GORDON'S memory, and by an anxiety not to offend the susceptibilities of individuals who have been severely criticised in his unguarded utterances. This excuse for the Bowdlerisation to which they have been subjected is no doubt valid, if we are allowed to assume that the regard for General GORDON'S memory is shown by excising all passages that emphasise his criminal mistrust of the Grand Old Man, and that the individuals who are so severely criticised are the individuals who comprise his present Cabinet.

Lord RIPON had on Wednesday an opportunity afforded him of repeating in London the panegyrics on himself and his policy with which so many provincial gatherings have been made acquainted. It is needless to say that he availed himself to the full of the opportunity, and enlarged to his heart's content on his favourite text of "What a good "boy am I." He was supported by Lord HARTINGTON, who wisely contented himself with paying a tribute to the valour of our soldiers which will no doubt be fully appreciated, though his more studied phrases on this occasion are not so effective as the breakdown of his usual stolidity when he read out in the House of Commons the telegram announcing the death of Sir HERBERT STEWART. Lord DERBY fully sympathised with Lord RIPON as having himself experienced that detraction which is the natural lot of good men who decline to be guided by expediency, and adhere to lines marked out by superior wisdom—or, in other words, sacrifice to their own doctrinaire views the interests of their country. Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT also was full of gush, and emphatically pronounced the real author of the Ilbert Bill to be a godlike man—forgetting, apparently, that it is to suffer and be strong, not merely to suffer and be self-opinionated, which is pronounced by the poet to be a godlike thing. It should not pass without notice in any record of the banquet of the National Liberal Club that by a strange omission we do not find in the list of toasts that of "Perish India!" But a sufficient explanation of this omission may be afforded by the suggestion that the toasts in support and in honour of Lord RIPON'S policy while Governor-General expressed the same leading principle, though in different terms.

We spoke somewhat too soon when last week we congratulated the Government on having so far emancipated themselves from Midlothianism as to accept without grudging the offer of assistance made by our colonies. It now appears that it is only New South Wales that is to be allowed to show that, in Mr. ANDREW LANG'S eloquent words,

> She answers ere her Mother calls,
> She leaves her ocean-girdled walls
> To face our foemen in the gates.

Our other colonies are naturally somewhat annoyed to find themselves left out in the cold, and do not appreciate the cool refusal of Lord DERBY to avail himself of an enthusiasm which he is constitutionally unable to appreciate. "Declined with thanks" is hardly a formula which will do much to keep alive the flame of loyalty among English sons across the sea, the young lion-cubs who are so admirably pictured in Mr. TENNIEL'S cartoon in this week's *Punch*. We trust, however, that this flame burns sufficiently brightly not to be extinguished even by Lord DERBY'S *douche* of cold water.

The Prince and Princess of WALES are to visit Ireland in April; and though we fear that the phrase now in so common use, "Too Late," must be again employed, and much regret that the visit did not take place before the beneficent and enlightened legislation of the PRIME MINISTER had brought the condition of Ireland to its present pass, we would not say a word in depreciation of the spirit in which the Royal pair, themselves so universally popular wherever they go, have undertaken the difficult task of kindling again the flame of loyalty in our sister island. The recent offer of 10,000 dollars for the PRINCE, dead or alive, though a bit of bunkum and swagger intended for Transatlantic use, is not a pleasant precursor to such a visit. It was disapproved of as likely to damage the cause by the Fenian and Dynamite Convention which is said to have met at Paris last week under circumstances so peculiarly melodramatic and sensational that we may be pardoned for disbelieving in its ever having taken place.

But though there seems so much doubt whether this great Congress in Paris, of which so full a description has been given, is not a mere hoax, a delusion fondly imagined by some imaginative contributor to the not very particular organs of public information in Paris in whose columns it first appeared, the report of Mr. BURT'S attendance at the meeting of Anarchists in the same city of Revolutions on Sunday rests on a surer foundation. There is a considerable element of the ludicrous in the narrative of the proceedings on this occasion; and Mr. BURT must by this time be heartily ashamed of them. At the same time it may be as well that he should have thus been brought face to face in a concrete form with the logical results of the views which he went over to advocate in the abstract. The freedom of discussion to which under the tyranny of a Monarchical government Mr. BURT was accustomed was roughly broken in upon by the French Anarchists, and it is probable that the unkind expressions in which his Gallican friends indulged about Mr. GLADSTONE will have affected Mr. BURT more than the outrageous nonsense talked by his French sympathisers on other topics as to which he would be less sensitive.

The painful circumstances which attended the attempted execution of LEE for the Babbacombe murder are much to be deplored from every point of view. While we have no desire to palliate or extenuate the guilt of one of the most atrocious criminals who has ever adorned the *Newgate Calendar*, we cannot but feel that there is something very terrible in the idea of his having three times over experienced the bitterness of death. Nor can we wonder that in the first feeling of repulsion at such a result of the criminal negligence of those charged with the duty of superintending his execution, Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT should without sufficient consideration have respited the criminal. But when the question is more calmly and dispassionately considered, it is, we think, clear that by giving way to his first sentimental impulse, the HOME SECRETARY has caused a grievous miscarriage of justice in the present, and opened the door to many possible evasions of justice in the future. If we are once to allow that the clumsiness of the executioner is to lead to the escape of the criminal from the doom which he has so justly deserved, we put a premium on that clumsiness, and introduce a possible element of collusion and a positive element of uncertainty which are much to be deprecated. It is certainly to be regretted that one of the most atrocious criminals who ever was condemned to suffer the just penalty of his crime should escape that penalty because the weather happens to be wet and the gaol authorities happen to be negligent.

THE VOTES OF CENSURE.

We invite the country to consider to-day the spectacle presented by the two Houses of Parliament. Which of the two Chambers mirrors with greater accuracy the judgment of the country—the House of Peers, or the House of Commons? We are not leaving out of account the fact that a large proportion of the Radical element among the people shares Mr. MORLEY'S views in favour of a policy of immediate Scuttle. But the whole nation, Radicals and Conservatives alike, condemns for one reason or another the policy of first slaughtering and then scuttling. As a notorious fact, the British people is practically unanimous on this point. Now—we press the question—does the House of Commons reflect, or does it not this unanimity of the nation; and, if it does not, what becomes of the pretence that it alone (and not the House of Lords) represents, and has a right to speak on behalf of, the people of England? What becomes of the favourite clap-trap of Radical spouters about "irresponsible" legislators, and the rest of it? We need not answer these questions. The situation speaks for itself. At a great crisis in its history the nation finds itself with a clear and plain issue placed before the two branches of the Legislature; and what happens? Just this—that the much-abused House of Lords proves itself to be in entire harmony with the people, and that the much-belauded House of Commons fails to do anything of the kind. And now we shall take leave to explain respectfully to Lord DERBY a point that seemed to puzzle his Lordship in the Duke of RICHMOND'S speech on Thursday night—why the Government supporters in the Lower House should be called "subservient" more than the Opposition majority in the House of Lords. The reason is, that the Peers vote according to their conscientious convictions, while the Liberals in the House of Commons do not. The Conservative Peers support Lord SALISBURY because he represents their real opinions; while even on the Liberal side the independence of the Peers is emphasised by the result of last night's Division, in which a large number of Liberal Lords voted against their party. The "subservience" of the Radicals in the House of Commons is clearly shown by the fact that a large proportion of them are willing to pocket their convictions to support their party. Does anybody imagine for a moment that, if the voting in the House of Commons could be taken by ballot, the Government could command any appreciable amount of support? As Mr. W. H. SMITH said in the City on Thursday, "The "country may perish and brave men may "die; foreign Powers may insult and flout "the English nation through its Government; "the Colonies may be disgusted at their ill-"treatment; but the Liberals must by all "means stand by their party. I denounce this "principle," he added, "from the bottom of my "heart." That, we imagine, is a view which the country will share.

We shall not attempt to deal in detail with the long-drawn discussions in the two Houses. The case against the Government was stated with precision and effect in the words which the House of Lords has so emphatically adopted as its own. On their past policy Ministers—we say "Ministers" advisedly, for they have not received aid from any quarter outside their own ranks—have had simply no defence to offer. They cannot possibly plead ignorance: they have sinned against light and knowledge. Lord NORTHBROOK actually taunted Lord SALISBURY with being "wise "after the event." Why, only an hour or two previously, Lord SALISBURY had been able to quote, with the greatest effect, his own prophecies of last spring, every word of which has since been literally fulfilled. Wise after the event! The Government were warned by General GORDON almost as soon as he reached Khartoum, on the 29th of February, of the absolute need of energetic action; they had been warned by Lord DUFFERIN; warned by Sir EDWARD MALET; warned by Mr. POWER; warned over and over again by everybody who had a right to be listened to, of what must happen if they delayed to take the necessary measures. Ministers have not a word of reasonable explanation to give for their delay between April and August. The point has been urged again and again, by no one more vigorously than by Mr. GIBSON, who, in a speech which was quite the best contribution to the Debate in the House of Commons, dwelt upon "the fatal lapse of months "which had made Lord WOLSELEY'S sub-"sequent expedition a dead march against "time." The Government knew in May that all communication with Khartoum had been cut off for a whole month—"a damning fact "which," Mr. GIBSON urged, "increased the "urgency of the case." The only possible reason that can be assigned for their torpor is the same that, as Lord SALISBURY pointed out with pitiless force, has actuated them throughout—the same rooted determination not to face their responsibility or to fulfil the duties which it cast upon them. Mr. GLADSTONE, indeed, had one other plea to urge—that the question between himself and the Opposition had already been settled last year, and that it was a *res judicata*. But, as Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE reminded his hearers, the hopes of Ministerial repentance raised last year had been disappointed:—"We lay before "you substantially the same case as before, "with the additional experience of the value "of Ministerial promises and the results of "Ministerial inaction." In short, as Mr. GIBSON said, the covenant which the PRIME MINISTER spoke of last year as entered into between the Government on one side, and Parliament and the nation on the other, has been deliberately and dishonourably broken.

And yet these are the Ministers who now ask that the covenant may be again renewed, and that they may once more be trusted by the nation to carry out its wishes. How, let us ask, would it be possible to credit a second time the pledged word of men who have distinctly violated their former promises? But in any case the country could not accord its confidence to a Government that, even at this moment, is positively unable to say what its future policy is. The discreditable shuffling of the PRIME MINISTER on the question of evacuating the Soudan has met with due contempt. Here is a specimen of his utterances on the subject, taken from the speech he delivered on Monday:—"What we say is, that we are not "prepared to say, at the present, that there is "no obligation upon us to use, according to "circumstances, reasonable efforts, if we can, "for leaving behind us an orderly govern-"ment at Khartoum." One speaker after another has urged the Government to give a definite pledge of its intentions. "What is "the policy of the Government?" has been the reiterated cry on every side; and to this hour the answer remains as obscure as ever. Mr. GLADSTONE has contradicted himself, and no harmonious statement of policy can by any ingenuity be constructed out of the more or less mutually inconsistent utterances of Mr. TREVELYAN, Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT, and Lord HARTINGTON in the Lower House, or Lord GRANVILLE, Lord NORTHBROOK, and Lord DERBY in the Upper. We can only gather what they will *not* do: they will not adopt the only true British policy, such as Lord SALISBURY so clearly sketched out on Thursday—which is, first, to insist, for the sake of our Indian Empire, on British predominance in Egypt, while saving the rights of the Suzerain; secondly, to secure the efficiency of Egyptian administration, and thus take away all excuse for the establishment of a Multiple Control; and next, as regards the Soudan, to check the inroad of barbarian fanaticism, setting up a strong Government there, with the object not only of securing the frontier of Egypt, but of nourishing civilisation and extirpating the slave-trade. Here, then, is the Conservative policy stated succinctly but

unmistakeably. The country has already made its choice between this wise, worthy, and statesmanlike plan and the unspeakably wicked design, already partially executed, of deluging the Soudan with the blood, not only of our foes, but of our own British soldiers, to save the reputation of the discredited and unprincipled tricksters whose criminal mismanagement has wrought unparalleled, perhaps irreparable, mischief to the Empire.

BUILDING HIS SEPULCHRE.

The publication of a few of poor Gordon's despatches, even in the wretchedly garbled form in which alone our Government of Morality will permit them to see the light, has, if possible, intensified the feelings of indignation and scorn and disgust which the country entertains towards the men who, to quote the Duke of Norfolk's forcible words, "sent that "brave, trusting, and loyal soldier out to a "far-off fortress in the desert, and left him "there to die." Nothing can be added to the pathos of Gordon's own touching language on the 9th of September—"How many times have "we written asking for reinforcements, calling "your serious attention to the Soudan? No "answer at all has come to us, and "the hearts of men have become weary "at this delay. While you are eating, "drinking, and resting in good beds, we and "those with us are watching by night and "day, endeavouring to quell the movement of "this false Mahdi. Of course you take no in-"terest in suppressing this rebellion. . . . "The reason why I have now sent Colonel "Stewart is because you have been silent all "this while, and have neglected us, and have "lost time without doing any good. If troops "were sent, as soon as they reached Berber "this rebellion would cease." All this comes on the English people only to heighten their bitter shame and add fuel to their wrath. Not thus is it, however, with the man who has betrayed Gordon, and on whose head lies the guilt of his blood—the man who with a gay heart betook himself to the theatre on the night when the news of Gordon's death arrived. Does *he* feel any remorse? Has he exhibited even such external signs of regret as the commonest decency—to put it on no higher ground—would demand that the Prime Minister of England should show on so sad an occasion as the death of a national hero? When Parliament re-assembled last week, Gordon's was the one name in all hearts and on all lips. Lord Granville, the Ministerialist apologist in the House of Lords, paid an eloquent tribute—he could have done no less—to the memory of that brave and noble soul. Mr. Gladstone's view of his duty was different. In the course of a long speech he could find no time to do even scant justice to the theme of poor Gordon's self-sacrifice. He did, however, find time for one thing: he made the utterly base and odious suggestion that, if Gordon had chosen, he might have cut and run from Khartoum—that he might, in fact, have abandoned his followers, deserted his post, and betrayed the trust of his Sovereign. As a matter of fact, Gordon could not have escaped from Khartoum; but the notion itself is well worthy of the quarter from which it came—worthy, as Mr. Stanhope has indignantly said, "of the Miuister who betrayed the Loyalists "at the Cape." We can well imagine that the Prime Minister would feel quite surprised at anybody being shocked at it—"Not play the "traitor? Why not? *We* do it every day."

On Thursday week Mr. Gladstone had nothing to say in praise of Gordon, though Gordon's sacrifice was the one topic uppermost in the minds of all. The Head of the Government left it to the Leader of the Opposition to give expression to the universal sentiment of regret and admiration—a task which Sir Stafford Northcote fulfilled in a few simple but touching words. But the omission was due to an oversight? Precisely. This "good" man was thinking of himself, and his own interests, and his own credit; and how best to avert from his own head the blame of the catastrophe. But, learning during the next few days the unfavourable impression (to say the least) caused by his air of callous indifference, he comes down to the House last Monday to make a tardy and grudging reparation for the omission—comes well primed with an elaborately constructed and coldly conventional eulogium. The wretched unreality and chilly formalism of the whole performance (with its solmn cant about "a hero among "heroes," and the rest of it) was too palpable. And now that a Memorial is to be raised to Gordon by his sorrowing countrymen, Mr. Gladstone's name, forsooth, is put upon the list of its promoters. Is that necessary? Is it the right and just thing to do by Gordon's memory? Is it fair to the nation whose Memorial it is to be? We entirely concur with Sir Frederick Milner's plain-spoken protest on the subject at the Patriotic Association's meeting, and we are not of opinion that the national monument to our dead hero should be set up with the aid of the man who is directly answerable for his death.

One of the most satisfactory features of the Debates in Parliament this week was the merciless but perfectly just severity with which Mr. Gibson exposed the Prime Minister's wilful neglect of Gordon. "In all these anxious twelve "months," he said, "the Government are "unable to point to one single thing that they "have done to support him, or to point to one "single expedient that General Gordon indi-"cated that they did not oppose. They "opposed everything and proposed nothing, "and we are asked now," added Mr. Gibson, "to hold spotless and blameless a Government "which deliberately gambled with the life of "'a hero among heroes.'" The eyes of the nation are opened now to the true character of the statesman in whose "goodness" it has been taught to believe in spite of all his blunders and mismanagement. This is the man who, to serve his own paltry political ends, has "gambled" with thousands of lives besides Gordon's—who has left the garrison of Sinkat, with its women and children, to the horrors of a slow death by starvation; who has slaughtered thousands upon thousands of Arabs for no conceivable object except to save his precious Government from the appearance of self-stultification; who has sacrificed the lives of our own dear countrymen—of Stewart, and Earle, and Burnaby, and of many a brave man besides—on the altar of his vanity and self-love. The blood so unrighteously spilt on those desert-sands, the desolate homes, the grief of the widow and the cry of the fatherless—all these testify with a mute but terrible eloquence against the heartless negligence which permitted the consummation of so much absolutely needless misery. The love and gratitude of the British people will surround the memory of Gordon with everlasting honour so long as England shall endure as a nation; but side by side with it, linked to it by association of ideas and yet separated from it by the force of sharpest possible contrast, will live another name which posterity will recall without gratitude and without honour.

THE ARMY AND NAVY.

Fresh revelations continue to be made as to the alarming condition of the Naval and Military forces of the country. As regards the Army, the comparatively small demands made upon our military resources by the requirements of the Soudan campaign—demands which are not to be compared with those we should be called upon to meet in the event of our going to war with a first-rate Power—have served simply to expose a condition of utter disorganisation. Even in the Guards the utmost efforts have had to be made to scramble together enough men to fill the battalions ordered out for active service. A regiment of Cavalry is able to produce on an emergency only a little more than a third of its right number of men. Portions of two regiments of Rifles have to be combined together to form one battalion—and so on, and so on. Then we hear of "riflemen," who have not yet been taught to shoot, being sent out to Gibraltar; and of a vast proportion (more than one-half) of the men in a regiment being pronounced unfit for active service. In spite of all endeavours to obtain recruits, recruits are not to be had. The new Army Estimates provide for an increase (on paper) of 1,880 men; but as the Army is at present far below the strength voted by Parliament, there is not much comfort to be extracted from the Estimates. A most instructive paper, drawn up in the form of a balance-sheet, was published the other day by the *St. James's Gazette*—always trustworthy in such matters—in which it was shown that in the last three years there has been a falling-off of "effectives" of 9,194 men. Meanwhile, according to the same authority, the number of rank and file voted by Parliament has vastly decreased during the last twenty years, though our military necessities have grown. The decrease actually amounts to 26,767 men—equivalent to the rank and file of an entire Army Corps. Meanwhile a recent writer in the *Volunteer Service Review* asks these pertinent questions:—"Why were the Guards "not sent off a week earlier if not for want "of equipment? Why do we not embody "the Militia?—naturally, for fear of the "expense of equipment. Why cannot the "Volunteers march two days from head-"quarters?—because they have neither great-"coats, commissariat, nor transport. Why "is it that each Government of the day dares "do nothing but cover up our nakedness?—"simply because it fears the cost of a proper "premium of insurance on our property."

These are not pleasant reflections for Englishmen, especially at the present moment. But then there is the Navy. *That*, at any rate, most of us hope, is in a fair way to being placed in a state of efficiency. A great outcry arose on the subject last autumn, and there were discussions in Parliament and out of it, and the Government declared their intention of spending five millions—a sum which, on further consideration, might (we all hoped) be increased. It may be as well to explain at once to those who fancied that the Government had woke up to their responsibilities, and were immediately going to spend £5,000,000 on the Navy, that they have been labouring under an erroneous impression. The fact is that we are going to spend this year about £1,200,000 more than we did last year; but out of even this modest sum only £800,000 represents the first instalment of the extraordinary increase promised last November. The additions are to be:—Two new ironclads (of a pattern not yet designed), five swift belted cruisers, and six vessels of the *Scout* type; also a number of small craft, such as torpedo-rams and gunboats—a paltry list enough, and scarcely worth taking into account in view of our actual needs. Even the Government proposals of last November were looked upon as wretchedly insufficient by nearly all naval authorities. We have before us the second edition of an able pamphlet written by one who certainly has a good right to be heard on the subject, Admiral Sir Thomas Symonds, who assures us that we need thirty-three new ironclads, twenty-five light cruisers, and 300 torpedo-vessels; that we ought to hasten the construction of the ironclads already on the stocks; and that we must re-armour the nineteen ironclads we now possess with unarmoured ends. What sensible man, be he seaman or landsman, can say that this estimate of our needs is excessive, in view of the enormous coast-line we have to guard throughout the world, and the astonishing increase recently made in foreign Navies? On the last point, of partially armoured vessels, Sir Edward Reed has lately been writing much that demands the most serious attention. He avers, and professes himself prepared to demonstrate, "that there is not "one of these ten ships, the latest added to the "British Navy, that cannot be either capsised, "and sunk, or sunk without capsising, without any "shot or shell whatever being directed against "those parts of the ship which are armoured. "The French armoured ships," he adds, "must "in all reason be expected to dispose of these "English ships in a very few minutes by simply "destroying their unarmoured parts. I will "here repeat in the most public and responsible "manner that the *Ajax*, *Agamemnon*, *Colossus*, "and *Edinburgh*, and the six ships of the "*Admiral* class, are all utterly unfit to engage "the corresponding French ships; unfit to enter "the line of battle at all; and unfit to be re-"tained on the list of armoured ships." An able article in *Nature* of to-day questions Sir Edward Reed's conclusions; but at the very least, such allegations, coming from such a quarter, demand an immediate inquiry, in order, that if they are unjustifiable, they may be proved so. Of the state of our ships' armaments—in itself a subject that requires the most careful examination—we have no space to say anything to day.

The upshot of the matter is that Parliament must, without any delay, and in spite of the urgency of other topics, take the whole question of our Army and Navy into its urgent consideration. Let a Royal Commission be at once appointed to report on the subject. We do hope that the Conservative Party, the *National* Party, will not allow the matter to slumber where it is. We are pleased to observe that Lord Sidmouth in the Upper House, and Sir John Hay in the Lower, intend to call attention to the question of the Navy. Let the Tory party throw its whole strength into the work of naval and military reform.

THE AYLESBURY PARISH CLERK.

Aylesbury, we believe, is an old-fashioned, sleepy, and decaying country town. With its Hundreds, it now sends two members to Parliament—a Jew Whig baronet and a priggish Radical (one of the prolific but deteriorating race of the Russells); but, as it is to be deprived of both these valuable members, its decay no doubt will soon become more rapid, and its sleepiness more profound. It has a gaol, a workhouse, a dirty pond for ducks, a townhall, a market, three churches, and, above all, a very galaxy of red brick and compo Dissenting meeting-houses. Without the latter, life there would be stagnation to the "saints," and living a martyrdom. The town also owns three newspapers, one thoroughly Conservative and two violently Radical. Moreover, it has a Debating Society, where no end of wisdom and eloquence are invariably displayed by all its members. At this agreeble institution the noisiest become notorious, and the notorious the noisiest, while sometimes the over-confident get a fall amid cheers from the onlookers.

Quite recently a certain "Reverend Davies," as he is called, proposed a formal motion—"That the Disestablishment and Disendowment "of the Church of England is an equitable "measure." Notice was given in due course, and, as we read, many of the "Reverend "Davies's" admirers—including "several ele-"gantly-dressed ladies"—came to stretch upwards and open widely their extensive ears. This equitable and eloquent minister—evidently a benevolent Liberal; for, like all his *confrères*, he is greatly in favour of being truly liberal with other people's property—was duly wound up to the local mark and thoroughly prepared to distil Nonconformist wisdom and declaim Dissenting eloquence for the advantage of his open-mouthed audience. He was evidently the sole presiding genius. He thought himself monarch of all he surveyed. We only greatly regret that no adequate report of his superfine gush and special pleading is before us—only a mere abstract. Robbery, of course, became "rearrangement"; somebody else's property became in theory and propriety the "Reverend "Davies's." There was much windy declamation, there was more shaky logic, there were divers questionable conclusions. His speech, from the published abstract, appears to have been devoted to phrase-mongering; and very grand and impressive it must have all sounded. Then and there, at all events, native decay and local sleepiness had been temporarily exorcised. For what happened? When the "Reverend Davies," finding his appropriate level, sat down, as it were in a blaze of glory, and amid a chorus of cheers,—what followed?

Before we answer that question, we ask another: What *might* have followed? Well, on such an occasion one of the parish Vicars (there are at least three of them) *might* surely have been there to answer objections, expose misstatements, correct limping logic, and lead his Church parishioners to an easy victory. But no; nothing of the sort occurred. The local clergy can attend temperance meetings, old women's gatherings, and concerts where screams predominate; but when the Established Church is attacked they apparently hide their heads and stay away. In the same week we read that one of them "greatly "delighted his audience" at a concert by singing "The Sea King;" another warbled sweetly that eminently beautiful song, "Rubadubdub;" while yet a third, with all proper grimace and falsetto, no doubt, "was again successful in his "soft and sweet ditty, 'Droop not, young "lover.'" All this is very touching, very soothing, perhaps; it may attract the Aylesbury ducks and enchant the Aylesbury shop-girls, but it is wanting a little in vigour, dash, and determination.

But what followed? Why in lieu of the Parson, there stood forth the Clerk—the Parish Clerk of Aylesbury, Joseph Jenns. To him was reserved the honourable duty of pricking the windbag and revealing the oratorical imposture. In a few plain and terse sentences, and by a compact batch of telling figures, he did his work well and perfectly. Going up to the awful-looking apparition which had been exhibited, he found it to be only a mopstick, a sheet, and a scooped-out turnip with a burning rushlight stuck therein. In other words, the motion, being a mistake and a delusion, proposing a breach of the Eighth Commandment, was thoroughly and triumphantly rejected—to the "Reverend "Davies's" red-hot anger and discomfiture. "I "deny your facts; they are lies, they are "false!" was the substance of his painful and pitiable retort upon the Parish Clerk. As Sydney Smith said of the young lady's singing, when asked "Is there not a vast deal of soul "in it?" "Madam, I see more of the "flounder than the sole" was his reply—so here, what seemed so full of "soul" turned out to be only "flounder." In other terms, fiction was offered instead of fact, wind and words instead of truth and righteousness.

But our readers can judge for themselves. We have reprinted on another page Mr. Jenns's carefully-written defence of his speech—which has appeared in all the local papers—and an

excellent and telling defence it is. It shows what one earnest man who knows his own mind, can do to detect falsehoods, to unravel rhetorical difficulties, to expose holy humbug, and to denounce robbery and imposture; and it has caused some little flutter and considerable interest in the sleepy atmosphere of the amiable clerics who now serve "the Prebendal Church "of St. Mary of Aylesbury."

To sum up, if the parsons in general—too often taken up with the tithe of mint and anise of mere "Ritualism," or with overmuch cold-water drinking, fiddling, and penny reading—would only rise up and gird themselves to smite their watchful, jealous, envious, and spiteful sectarian enemies, these latter would very speedily be scattered, like a disagreeable miasma before a strong and bracing north-east wind.

Reviews.

EAST BY WEST.*

Mr. Lucy's record of his journey during the Recess, published under the title of *East by West*, would probably have been more valuable if he had not had so many predecessors in the same field. As it is, we are reminded as we read it of Sir Charles Dilke's *Greater Britain*, of Miss Bird's *Japan*, of Mr. Phil Robinson's *Saints and Sinners*, of Mr. Val Prinsep's *Imperial India*, and of other works—to use the accustomed formula—too numerous to mention. It is not likely that a reader who is well up in the special literature belonging to any one of the countries which Mr. Lucy visited in the course of his Recess-journey will find much that is new in the volumes before us, but for the general reader there is a great deal which is interesting and amusing in them. We have once more to protest, as we have had to protest in so many books of travel, against the determined attempt of the writer to be funny; and when on his very first page we find him alluding to the Queen walking on the slopes and to Miss Betsy Trotwood's utterances in *David Copperfield*, we are enabled to form a shrewd guess as to the general style of the work submitted to our notice. But when we get over the uncomfortable impression produced by the author's somewhat laboured facetiousness we find very much in the book which is worth reading, and are prepared to welcome it as a by no means unpleasing addition to that ever-growing literature of travel with which it is so difficult for the most assiduous student to keep pace. The author was—as we gather, not only from sundry passages in his work, but yet more explicitly from his dedication—accompanied by his wife, and they seem thoroughly to have enjoyed their journey. This commenced with a visit to America, where, after landing at Sandy Hook, and making a short stay at New York, the travellers proceeded through the western towns and the Rocky Mountains to San Francisco, pausing *en route* at Salt Lake City, of which they give by no means so enthusiastic an account as Mr. Phil Robinson has done. From "'Frisco" they went across to Japan, and thence to Hongkong, which they describe as the Gibraltar of the East; and, without penetrating further into the Celestial Empire, they proceeded to Singapore. At the risk of offending Gladstonian anti-Imperial susceptibilities, we must quote the passage which is called forth by this portion of their journey:—

> It is a striking thing, when making long journeys by sea in the far East, to notice how the British lion has laid its massive paw upon successive points of strategical importance, till it has girdled Asia, Africa, and Europe with a line of outposts. As in the time of the Armada beacon fires were built around the coast—
>
> "Till Skiddaw saw the fire that burned on Gaunt's embattled pile,
> And the red glare on Skiddaw roused the burghers of Carlisle,"
>
> so now, on a larger range, beacon fire answers to beacon fire from the China Seas to the Mediterranean. It is lit at Hongkong, in Southern China. It is flashed from Singapore, on the Malay peninsula, and is taken up almost within sight at Penang. It twinkles at Fort Blair on the lonely Andaman Island. Rangoon and Moulmein hand on the torch, which blazes throughout British Burmah. Akyab, at the mouth of the Ganges, shows the light, making near connection with India. All Ceylon is British, with its military camp at Colombo, and its naval station in Trincomalee. Aden in Arabia, and Perim on the far side of the Red Sea, hold out the signal, which burns on Sokotra, a little island commanding the Gulf of Aden; whilst in the Mediterranean it shows boldly forth at Cyprus, Malta, and on the Rock of Gibraltar. How it came to pass that these odd corners of the earth should belong to a little island set in northern seas, it would perhaps not be desirable too closely to enquire. But there they are, quietly, unresistingly, and, to tell the truth, prosperously living under British rule, monuments of the activity and the audacity of British enterprise.

We may, perhaps, demur to his description of Singapore as "a long low landmark, lying dark "under wet skies," and may be allowed to ask him what becomes of Fort Canning, Buket-tima, and the highlands by the new harbour. Nor does the likeness between that town and an English town strike most travellers so forcibly as it apparently struck Mr. Lucy. This is, however, by the way, and we may accompany the author with little hesitation to the island over which the spicy breezes have so often blown at missionary meetings. Here he paid a visit to Arabi—a gentle-mannered, kindly-faced man, whom he found it difficult to associate with that Arabi—by no means the blest, who has played so prominent a part in recent Egyptian history. His record of this interview is not without interest:—

> "I will never go back to Egypt as long as it is enslaved by Tewfik," Arabi says, with unwonted access of animation. "I have no desire to see Egypt while it is a land of slaves. Once it was a country that smelled sweet to the nostrils; now it stinks. Its wells are covered with earth; there is no refreshment in it. Why does not England make Egypt free?"
>
> Talking again of Tewfik, and contrasting him with his father, he said, "Ismail is a clever man, but a rogue. Tewfik is not clever enough to be a rogue: he is simply foolish. I do not think he knows the difference between right and wrong."
>
> Of England, whose arms chased him from Alexandria and routed him at Tel-el-Kebir, Arabi speaks with unfeigned respect, and with an affectionate regard which, if not real, is well assumed.
>
> "I hope to see England some day," he said. "I am learning English fast and write it too. Look here."
>
> Then he brought out his lesson-book, and gazed with a pleased, fond smile upon his tremendous and painful feats of caligraphy. He was so engrossed with his scholastic pursuits that he forthwith proceeded to give an English lady who was present lessons in Arabic, reciting from his stock of English phrases, and putting them in Arabic. He wrote his name for her on a card, setting himself resolutely down at the table, inking his fingers a good deal, and spending seven or eight minutes upon the task. When concluded it ran "Ahmed Arabi, the Egyptian; Colombo," with the date. He might almost have stormed a town with a similar expenditure of time and physical labour.

From Ceylon the traveller proceeded to India, where he found the temples, even at Benares itself the holy city, quite despicable when compared with the gorgeous fanes of Japan. Nor was he able to realise the enthusiastic sentiment with which the Hindoos regard the Ganges. Indeed, truth to tell, there is no little of the British Philistine about Mr. Lucy, and he is only too apt to measure all that he sees by the standard of the ordinary Englishman; we shall, perhaps, despite the involuntary tribute to Imperialism which we have above cited, be justified in saying, by the standard of the ordinary English Radical. But even the English Radical can hardly be quite unmoved by a visit to Lucknow or Cawnpore, as the memories connected both with one and the other are never to be effaced. Often, too, as the Taj has been described, there is something about this wonder of the Eastern World—which the Prince of Wales, speaking to the late Dean of Westminster, stated to be the most striking of all the buildings he had ever seen—that lends an ever-fresh charm to each new attempt to call up some impression of its beauties for those to whom it has not been given to behold them with their bodily eyes. Mr. Lucy's sketch is certainly not the least successful of the many attempts to describe the indescribable:—

> Like the fort, the Taj stands on the banks of the Jumna. Seen from its marble terrace, the river, second in sanctity only to the Ganges, presents a strange appearance. Its wide bed is for five-sixths of its extent dry land, the enfeebled current running through a narrow channel on the other side. Under the walls of the Taj a great field of wheat is growing among the grey sandbanks in the very middle of the river bed. When the rains come in June the newly-born river will rush downward in a mighty stream, washing high up the walls of the Taj, and the cornfield will lie some fathoms deep. In the meanwhile the harvest will be garnered in, and when next autumn the river dries up again, a rich bed will be ready to receive the sowing for a new harvest. I suppose there is no other instance of a river so rich in gifts as this—to give fish at its flood and corn at its ebb.
>
> Like the minarets at Benares, the Taj dominates the city. Its white domes are seen almost from every point of view. It is approached through a magnificent gateway built of red sandstone elaborately carved and eloquent with sentences from the Koran. At the end of an avenue of dark cypress trees the Taj reveals itself. It is built of white marble raised upon a platform of red sandstone, the marble as purely white to-day as when it was polished. The building realises to a great extent the structure of the New Jerusalem, which John in his dream at Patmos beheld, when the first heaven and the first earth had passed away—the great city whose "foundations were garnished with all manner of precious stones," the first a jasper and the twelfth an amethyst.
>
> The uttermost ends of the earth were put under tribute to furnish building materials to the Taj. Jeypore sent white marble. The rare yellow marble came from the banks of the Nerbudda, and the black from Charkoh. China contributed the crystal; the Punjaub sent jasper, the cornelian came from Bagdad; turquoises from Thibet and agate from Yeman. Ceylon loaded the Emperor's commissioners with lapis lazuli; the Red Sea was dragged for coral; Bundelkund sent garnets; Punnah produced its diamonds; Nerbudda sent rock spar; Marcheen yielded its famous philosopher's stone; Gwalior paid tribute in loadstone, Villait in chalcedony, Lunka in sapphires; whilst Persia presented onyx and amethyst to her powerful neighbour.
>
> This rare wealth of precious stones is disposed over the marble with infinite skill and artistic taste. Where the marble ends and the inlaying begins is to be told only by the varied colour. Happily the Taj has escaped the fate of the palaces within the fort. The British soldier, flushed with victory and animated by extra rations of grog and new-born love of art, has not come poking round the walls with point of bayonet; nor has the Jat swooped down on the place, nor the Maharatta overrun it. It is as perfect as when Noor-Jehan was laid here, and, looking upon its perfectness, Shah Jehan conceived the notion of building a similar mausoleum on the other side of the river, connecting the two by a silver bridge.
>
> The grave of the beautiful Noor-Jehan is dug in a vault underneath the level floor by which access is obtained to the cenotaph. A flight of marble steps leads to the solemn gloom of the chamber, the light falling like dim break of day full on the end of the tomb bearing the inscription of the Empress's name. This is the crowning beauty of the idea of the immortal architect—the chamber all gloom, and only the name of the dead wife illumined by the soft daylight struggling down the staircase.
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> * * * *
>
> The perfection of the architect's art is told in the fact that one looking upon the building does not think whether it is large or small or of any geometrical shape. It is simply perfect, something to be seen not once but a hundred times in all the varied aspects of weather and hour. It is a chameleon among architectural works. In the early morning whilst dawn is breaking it seems coloured a light blue, rose-tinted beneath the rising sun, dazzling white at noontide, violet colour before an impending storm, crimson at sunset, pearly white under the moonlight, always a thing of beauty, a joy for ever.

Less familiar scenes, no less graphically described, are to be found in the chapters dealing with Jeypore and Ajmere, though in both the author gives way too much to the temptation to be funny. There is more value to be attached to the summary of his impressions of India contained in the succeeding chapter, which tells how he went to that country prepared to acquiesce in the incubus and "Perish India" view, but left it "full of amazement at the fertility of her "resources, the steady growth of her prosperity, "the docility and industry of her people, and full "of hope for her future." We have not space to dwell on his homeward voyage, with the lively description which it gives of Aden and of the Suez Canal. His advocacy of the widening of the latter, instead of adopting the alternative scheme of a new canal, gathers fresh zeal from his having stuck fast in the present narrow ditch. But for his account of this misfortune we must refer the reader to the book itself. Indeed, that book has already detained us longer than it ought to have done if we had been content to measure it by the store of new information not previously accessible to the reader which it contains. But, without having much to recommend it in this respect, it may certainly be recommended as an interesting, and, despite the author's attempts at jocularity, an amusing book.

* *East by West.* A Journey in the Recess. In Two Vols. By Henry W. Lucy.—London: R. Bentley and Son, 1885.

HAMILTON'S CATECHISM.*

This volume is a remarkable one in several ways. It was written, indeed, not by the Prelate whose name it bears, and who succeeded Cardinal Beaton as Archbishop of St. Andrew's and Primate of Scotland, but was drawn up by a Synod of Clergy of the Scottish Church, when Hamilton, natural son of James, the first Earl of Arran, was Primate and Legate. It was issued in 1552 from the press at St. Andrew's, and has more than most other volumes a right to be regarded as the official theological manifesto of the Northern clergy at the most critical period of the Church in that part of the British Isles. According to the colophon, it was "prentit . . be the command and expensis "of the maist reverend father in God, Johne, "Archbishop of Sanct Androus and Primate of "the hail Kirk of Scotland," and, as the title further tells us, was put forth "with the advice "and counsale of the Bischoippis and uthir "Prelates with doctours of Theologie and Canon "Law of the said realme . . present for the tyme." It is carefully reprinted at the Clarendon Press, Oxford, under the editorship of Mr. Thomas Graves Law, formerly a distinguished priest of the Oratory at Brompton; but now, like others of the same body, engaged in secular life apart from the control of the Roman Catholic Church, from which he has withdrawn. The office held by Mr. Law of Librarian of the Signet Library, Edinburgh, has placed within his reach many a controversial or apologetic pamphlet of the sixteenth century, which he has made use of in the valuable and interesting introduction added by him to the Catechism itself. A page or two from the pen of Mr. Gladstone gives but little value to this volume, but in it attention is directed to one or two of the singular omissions in this synodical explanation of the doctrines of the Catholic Church as received and taught by the parish priests and curates in Scotland. These omissions are, as Mr. Law points out, significant. They would be significant at any time and under any circumstances; they are the more so when, as Mr. Law reminds us, they synchronise with the struggle in England between the Roman Catholic clergy and Anglican divines, such as Tonstall and Gardiner and the Puritan innovators of the Bucer and Peter Martyr party. To most readers of English ecclesiastical history this volume, with the introduction of Mr. Law, will prove very suggestive, and, unless their reading be wider than that of most students, also somewhat puzzling—puzzling because it opens to them a vista for which they will hardly be prepared.

The Catechism itself is of much interest. Its literary value is great. Its simple telling style is an important addition to our knowledge of the classical Scotch dialect at the time of its greatest strength, and this knowledge brings into it a respect for the Scottish language, which the writers very probably, however, call Inglis. (P. 249.) The exposition of the Ten Commandments, the explanation of the various Articles of the Creed and the petition in the Lord's Prayer, are worth the attention of those who are familiar with the volumes of Bishop Pearson, and the writings of Nicholson and other divines of our own Church. But it is not so much what we find here—valuable again, we repeat, as the carefully prepared explanations of the various parts of the Catechism are; the omissions are very significant. A Catechism prepared by the Bishops and priests of Scotland, at a moment when the whole of Europe, and England in especial, was resounding with the noise of theological controversy—a Catechism to be used in the pulpit, and taught in the schools, which contains hardly a line of Roman doctrine, full as it is of Catholic teaching, is a phenomenon which calls for some notice. We have no mention of the Pope, or of the pretensions of the Chair of St. Peter; hardly a word on the "Sacrament of the Altar" which moderate men amongst ourselves would endorse, or even supplement; nothing of the worship of the Ever-Blessed Virgin; and but a few words about Purgatory which most would pass over without observation. Faith, prayer, and sanctification, the moral and social duties, find their proper place side by side with the work of the Holy Spirit and the power of the Sacraments. The special significance of such a volume as this is the light it throws on the position of the Scottish clergy in the ferment of the Reformation. The admirable Catholic tone of the exposition and the freedom from distinctive Roman teaching are very remarkable. Equally remarkable is the testimony which we have from other sources of the want of harmony between the hierarchy and the parochial clergy, at the moment when Presbyterianism was thundering at the gates of the citadel of the Church in Scotland; the lack of respect which the latter bore to the former, and as a consequence the failure of the dignified clergy—the word dignified can only be used in a secondary sense—to guide the clergy at such a moment. Cardinal Beaton was assassinated whilst busy with the marriage feast of one of his illegitimate daughters, to be held with much pomp and much shamelessness. The clergy of Aberdeen, when called on by their Bishop for some suggestions as to staying the onward rush of innovation, give some good advice, but, not content with this, ask his "holi-"ness" that he himself would mix less with the disreputable rabble "on the links," and put away that gentlewoman with whom he was "slander-"ously said to be too familiar," &c., &c. [Registrum Epis. Aberd. in Preface]; whilst John, Archbishop of St. Andrews, whose name stands on the title of this volume, was notoriously living with a woman known as Lady Semple, by whom he had a large family. Under these circumstances, an exposition of the Catechism, however orthodox and valuable, was almost out of place. The faithful were not edified by lessons against sensuality from the pens—officially spoken of as those of Bishops and Abbots—the illegitimate offspring of the King and upper nobility—even though they occupied their posts as spiritual watchmen by "the permis-sion" and connivance of the occupier of the Chair of St. Peter. Almost the whole moral tone of the upper clergy in Scotland was immoral, and this infected many of the second order and descended lower. Why should the laity strive after clean living when the example of the unclean living of Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, and Priors was thrust before their eyes? Why should parish priests teach godliness and learn the lesson of this Catechism, when to do so was but to call the attention of the people to the evil lives of their rulers, and thus increase the discontent and hasten the disruption of the Church? Duty, it may be answered; but to prevent the breach which impended might claim to be a part of that very duty. Perplexity was increasing not the less, though a good Catechism was issued in the name of the sensualist John Hamilton, Archbishop of St. Andrew's, Primate, Legate, and what not besides. Of all this contrariety we get some glimpses from the industrious pen of Mr. Law in the valuable introduction he has appended to this reprint of the Catechism of Archbishop Hamilton. In doing this he has added to the historical importance of this reprint. Apart, however, from this, and regarded only in its theological aspect, the volume is well worth the attention of theologians for its clear exposition of primary truths. For all these reasons we thank the delegates of the Oxford Press for this convenient reissue of the weighty declaration of the Scottish Synod on the teaching of the Catechism.

* *The Catechism of John Hamilton, Archbishop of St. Andrew's*, 1552. Edited, with Introduction and Glossary, by Thos. Graves Law; with a Preface by the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone.—Oxford: Clarendon Press.

NEW NOVELS.

It is always a disappointment when, on opening what appears to be a new three-volume novel, bearing the name of a popular writer, we find it to be not a new novel, but only a republication of magazine stories. Such a disappointment will be experienced by the readers of *A Man of His Word*,* and the disappointment will be all the greater in that Mr. W. E. Norris holds so high a rank among contemporary novelists. The readers of *Mademoiselle de Mersac* and of *No New Thing* would naturally turn with eager expectation to what purports to be a new novel by the same author. They will find merely a reprint of various tales which have already appeared in the *Cornhill Magazine*, the only novelty in the three volumes being the story which gives its name to them. The hero of it is Mr. Hobday, a self-made man, whose temperament is well described when it is said that for him "there was little pleasure to be derived "from conversation with a friend who did not "think it worth while to, and a subordinate who "dared not, contradict him." There is a good deal of amusing matter in the little story, which tells how the "man of his word" was tricked into giving his consent to his daughter's marriage with the younger son of an impecunious peer, whose heir was already deeply indebted to him. The way in which the pride of the peer and the stubbornness of the man of his word are worked upon by the ingenious Staveley, who acts as the *deus ex machinâ* to disentangle the complication in which Josephine and Egbert are involved, is cleverly described. But, as a question of literary merit, we prefer some of the republished stories. These, as we have already said, were first published in the *Cornhill Magazine*, and some of them are fresh in our memory, but others have faded from it, though, as constant students of that excellent periodical, we must no doubt have read them on their original appearance. Though very slight in texture, they are admirable in workmanship; and if it be ever advisable to reproduce magazine stories in a three-volume form, we may admit that these stories deserved to be so reproduced. The scene of them is laid in various parts of the world. "La Bella Sorentina," as its name implies, takes us to Naples; "The Princess "Paolini," to Rome; the tragic *dénouement* of "The Man with the Red Hair," which is the one of which we retain the most vivid impression as

* *A Man of His Word, and other Stories.* By W. E. Norris. In Three Vols.—London: Smith, Elder, and Co., 1885.

an old friend, takes place in the Pyrenees; "Nils Jensen," perhaps the most touching of them all, is a story of Norway; "Countess Aldecranz," a story of Sweden; and "Count Waldemar," a story of Homburg; while "Mrs. Van Steen" is one of the American ladies who are familiar to us in the pages of Mr. Henry James; and "The "Old Woman of the Sea" is a burlesque, but a very spirited burlesque, of the female globe-trotter of our own dear country. There is not one of the stories here republished which is not worth reading; but still as we read them we cannot help feeling a sense of regret that Mr. Norris should have spent his time in producing these slight sketches of character instead of giving us another of those delightful and well-worked-out novels with which his name is associated. Pending, however, the production of another of those novels, we must be grateful to him for the store of amusement here afforded.

It is difficult to understand on what principle the honours of a second edition are allotted. We have come across many very excellent novels which we fully expected to see so honoured, but they have apparently fallen into undeserved oblivion, while other and far inferior works have reached a second edition. Miss Florence Marryat's *The Heart of Jane Warner** (F. V. White and Co.) is one of those other and far inferior works. It is not so objectionable as some of the productions by the same writer, but there are many nasty allusions and innuendoes which interfere with the reader's enjoyment. Without wishing to dogmatise, we may be allowed to express our doubts as to the correctness of the author's law. Though the interesting baronet who figures as the hero might have been indicted for perjury in swearing that he and his intended were both of full age, we more than doubt whether his perjury would have rendered the marriage illegal. As this is the very backbone of Miss Marryatt's story, we should be glad to have our doubts on this head resolved. Apart from the legal question, the story is somewhat commonplace. We know of old the lodger who marries the landlady's daughter, and when his fortunes change for the better is anxious to get rid of his wife. Still more familiar is the fashionable young lady who marries for money a man whom she despises, and keeps up after marriage a brisk flirtation with another man who has won what she is pleased to call her heart. Jane Warner, the heroine, is a higher type of character than Miss Marryat generally supplies to her readers, but we think that she ought to have shown a little more energy in dealing with her unworthy lover, and should not so passively have acquiesced in her husband's desertion of her and in his marriage to another young lady. To have such a wife as that young lady turns out to be may perhaps be regarded as a sufficient punishment for the perfidy even of a wicked baronet. It is certainly more than he deserves when Lady Ewell, frustrated in her attempt to run off with her old admirer, takes an overdose of chloral, and Jane Warner returns to the man who had so shamefully thrown her over. *The Heart of Jane Warner* may have been a good heart, but the taste of Jane Warner is more than questionable when during Lady Ewell's lifetime she remains on terms of intimacy and affection with the man who had deceived them both.

Constance MacEwen's latest contribution to current literature, *Not Every Day*,† described as "a "love octave," is not so worthy of her pen as were some of her earlier works. Without doubt it bears evidence of much reading and deep thought, while the style is vigorous; but the constant flow of epigrammatic expression is wearisome, and the thread of the story is lost in the superabundance of "talkie-talkie" (to quote one of her chapter headings) in the book. Love is evidently a subject in dealing with which Constance MacEwen is seen at her best; and the presence of Vanessa Esterhazy and Van Straubenzee, the two principal characters in the story, give her ample scope to exercise her powers. Many of the characters are well drawn, and clearly indicate that the writer is a deep observer of human nature.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.

The second part of the *Little Schoolmaster Mark* has been reprinted by Messrs. Macmillan from the *English Illustrated Magazine*. We do not profess to be altogether able to follow Mr. Shorthouse through all the inner meaning which underlies his grateful and touching story; but there is much of rare beauty and pathos in it which can hardly fail to touch the most matter-of-fact reader. From the short preface prefixed to it we learn that the author in the concluding chapter was taken a passage from a sermon of Canon Knox Little, which Mr. Shorthouse adopts as being more exactly in accord with the message which the shadowy Beings of his tale are intended to convey to the outside world than any phrases which he could himself have coined.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* has emancipated itself in a remarkable manner, though by no means for the first time in the history of that periodical, from the Gladstone glamour. No more vigorous support to a policy in the Soudan which savours far more of Lord Beaconsfield than of Mr. Gladstone, which recognises rather than shirks the responsibility that England has undertaken, which is in harmony with the Imperial rather than with the parochial theory, could have been afforded than has been afforded in the columns of our quondam Liberal contemporary. Not the least effective exposition of that policy, and certainly not the least scathing condemnation of the opposite policy, which substitutes vacillation for energy, Micawber for Nelson, is to be found in the *Pall Mall Extra* which, under the appropriate title of *Too Late*, has just been issued. This publication is of special value as bringing together in a compact form much scattered information which is all too likely to be overlooked by the mere casual student of contemporary politics. The responsibility of Mr. Gladstone's Administration for the fate of General Gordon, the impossibility of his deserting his post as Mr. Gladstone himself would probably have done under like circumstances, the unpardonable delay in sending aid to him, are here painted in colours which lose none of their darkness from their actual fidelity to truth. At a time when so much has been done and so much has been said to obscure the true issue, it is matter of real thankfulness that the indictment against the present Ministry should have been thus formulated in plain and unmistakeable language, but without the slightest shade of exaggeration, by a journal which has, until this crucial test was applied to its party fidelity, been devoted to the very backbone—if we may speak of backbone in such a connection—to the G.O.M. and the motley band of followers which he has dragged at t is chariot wheels.

The *Pocket Hotel Directory* (W. Mackenzie and Co.) will prove of great practical value to the travelling public. It comprises a list of the best hotels in every part of the world, and gives as far as possible the charges at each hotel. There is also a great variety of useful and reliable information, such, for instance, as the places of interest in the principal cities, cab fares, tramway and omnibus charges, &c. Great care seems to have been bestowed upon its production, and it will no doubt be widely appreciated by the large body of pleasure-seeking and business travellers.

A melancholy interest attaches to the facsimile just published by Mr. Edward Stanford of the *Map of the Route from Suakim to Berber* which General Gordon drew at Khartoum in March last year, when he was in hopes that by this route assistance might reach him. The map, which showed the rapid journey of Gordon and Stewart, was of the lamented General's own drawing, and the very valuable explanations attached were in his own writing and are marvellously neat and clear. At the present time, when we have to fall back upon that route to rescue, not the chartographer himself, but his rescuers, this facsimile is of special interest; and it is not only as a valuable memorial of the past, but as a useful guide to following the operations of the future, that it may be recommended to the attention of our readers.

Drifting into Unbelief (Skeffington and Sons) is the subject of an exceedingly earnest and timely appeal to thinking men on the dangers of indecision in matters of religion. It is by the Rev. R. F. Hessey, M.A., Vicar of Basing, Hants. The importance of the subject and the impressive style of its treatment will ensure for this address the attentive perusal and thoughtful study it deserves.

The Crime of Christmas Day (Kegan Paul), by the author of *My Ducats and My Daughters*, details the incidents connected with a murder committed in the Latin Quarter of Paris, and for the commission of which Raoul Girard, a nephew of the victim, is arrested on suspicion, only to be released through the extraordinary sagacity of a French detective, in whose investigations the reader cannot fail to take the deepest interest. The story is admirably told and the characters lifelike.

* *The Heart of Jane Warner*. By Florence Marryat. In Three Vols.—London: F. V. White and Co., 1885.

† *Not Every Day*. By Constance MacEwen. In Two Vols.—London: Ward and Downey, 1885.

Correspondence.

THE ADORATION OF THE RESERVED SACRAMENT.

To the Editor of the John Bull.

Sir,—As one of the constant readers of the John Bull for nearly half a century, and as one who for the most part cordially agrees with it in all matters political and religious, I venture to protest against your strong condemnation of the Bishop of Winchester's assertion (on the 12th inst. in Convocation), in reference to the adoration of the reserved Sacrament.

The words which you regard as so unworthy of the speaker are the following—that when the primitive practice of reserving the Sacrament to be carried to the sick, perhaps the next day or some days afterwards, "grew to the height it did in the middle ages it became something they could hardly designate by a word short of idolatry."

Pained as I am continually by the evident tendency of my younger brethren to mediæval and material views of the Lord's Presence in the Sacrament of the Altar, I should like to say much in the speaker's justification. But instead of so doing I will simply send you an abridged extract from the *Notitia Eucharistica* of the late Mr. Scudamore, who is held in reverence by all to whom true Catholic principles are dear. His words areas follows (2nd Edition, § v., p. 977):—

"Many writers deny that the Roman worship of the Host is idolatry, because the worshipper believes it to be Christ. Such a persuasion, however, does not alter the fact of this directed worship, and therefore cannot make that word inappropriate to the action. He who worships, 'the creature,' says St. Gregory of Nyssa, even though he does this in the name of Christ, is an idolator, giving the name of Christ to the idol. . . . Roman Catholic writers themselves would confess that their devotion is an error of the gravest character if the bread remains. Erasmus, for example, refused to believe that Christ would so long suffer the Church to 'stick in so abominable an error as to worship a little crust made from flour for Himself.' With regard to his argument, no unprejudiced mind can admit that the extent to which such a custom has prevailed can prove it to have been right. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man cometh shall He find faith on the earth? It is just this failure of faith which our Lord would lead His disciples to anticipate as general that has made man, under all dispensations, crave for a visible object of worship. Through such defection of faith—the source of all idolatry—had our forefathers been led to adore as God the material symbol of the body of Christ. Can we be surprised, then, if, when the light at length broke in upon them, they compared their former error to the misdirected worship of the heathens, and even stigmatised it by the name of idol-worship? . . . The question, therefore, if any ought to be raised, is rather how far the practice, which in the honest use of language we are constrained, however unwillingly, to call 'idolatrous,' may be excused in others on the ground of ignorance or prejudice? Upon this, however, we are not called to enter. God only, as knowing all, can judge all. To His loving mercy must we leave the involuntary errors of His servants."

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
WILLIAM JOHN EDGE.

Upper Tooting, February 25.

[The point at issue seems to us one of fact simply. We affirm that Roman Catholics do *not* worship the outward and visible sacramental elements, but that they *do* worship the invisible Christ sacramentally present. The shocking charge of "idolatry" cannot be sustained unless this proposition can be called in question. On the issues raised in the Report of the Upper House of Convocation we may take this opportunity of referring to Canon Carter's letter to the *Guardian*, of which we print a summary to-day.—Ed. *J. B.*]

THE MASTER OF BALLIOL ON GENERAL GORDON.

The *Oxford Magazine* gives the following concluding passages of a sermon preached on Sunday week by the Master of Balliol, in the College Chapel, on the death of General Gordon:—

"There never has been a public calamity (not the death of Nelson at the battle of Trafalgar, of which our forefathers have told us) affecting so deeply the hearts and minds of England. He upon whom all eyes have been turned during the last year, who had saved an Empire and then retired into private life, as if he were nobody; who again went forth and girded himself to the task of putting down slavery and the slave-trade in the interior of Africa; who, alone and almost single-handed, undertook the still harder task of saving beleaguered garrisons, and of restoring peace and order in the Soudan—just when his friends were within sight and expecting the joyful meeting, has fallen by the treachery of some of his followers; and the work so nearly crowned with success is undone and has to be begun over again. There is nothing more tragic in history than the death of this great man, whether we consider the loneliness of his position, the nearness of the object, the simplicity and disinterestedness of his aims: no loss certainly could be sadder to us. And not only we, but foreign nations also, seem to feel that by his death the world is the poorer—his virtues still the voice of party and of envy—and we are thankful to them for their appreciation of our countryman.

"During the past year we have been living at home in ease and comfort, engaged in study or business, enjoying the pleasant country and the return of the seasons from time to time at Oxford and elsewhere. What a contrast to the life of the great Captain, shut up with a single friend in the city of the desert far away, surrounded by strange people and a strange faith, and yet possessing such a superhuman force of will and mind that he was able to command them, and to use all the resources of war in protecting them against the fanatical hordes of besiegers! What were the thoughts which filled his mind at that time? He was still dwelling in idea on that Divine life which taught him that there was something better and higher than success:—'The Lord had not promised that he should succeed,' and he was willing to die. In such a frame of mind, while taking all the means which military genius could devise for the safety of the town, he passed those lonely hours: once recently to be saddened by the death of his beloved comrade, the only sharer of his enterprise, perhaps strengthening the presentiment of his own death:—'I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.'

'Men will think and feel about him more or less deeply according to the depth of their own nature; and in some the memory of him will be always and for ever fixed, and will affect their lives. Others will remind us that he maintained singular fancies about the interpretation of Scripture; that he found a mystical meaning in the rocks which surround Jerusalem; that, like Dante or Swedenborg, he lived, not in a figure only, in the daily sight of heaven and hell. Such fancies or meditations were entertained by almost every saint of mediæval times, Catholic or Protestant. The mention of them leads me to make a remark which has been often made before, respecting this great man, that 'there was something about him which might seem more truly to belong to other times.' He might be regarded as one of the great ones of old, who has visited us for a season, whom the world deemed mad, because he was out of place amid the conventions of society. Is any one so ignorant of human nature as not to know that a self-taught man, conversing with his own soul, and not with established teachers, will have many 'private interpretations of Scripture' (such as there are in Scripture itself), and many personal experiences which have no value or meaning to other persons or to another age or country? But the true greatness, the central idea of such a man is not to be gathered from these weaknesses of fancies, through which as through a many-coloured glass he beheld the vision of the Eternal and Unchangeable. It consists in this—that he devoted himself heart and soul to his country and to his God. 'He endured as seeing Him Who is invisible.' Such an intensity of self-devotion, such an abnegation of all things which men hold dear, not for a moment only, or on the field of battle, but always and everywhere; such a 'counting all things but dross,' if he might serve God and his fellow-men, had not been seen in any one else of our time. The fear of treachery and assasination had no power over him, for at any moment he was prepared to die, and he left the accidents of the hour with God. Yet though already seeming to be an inhabitant of another world, he was still the great strategist who knew all the arts of attack and defence; the most mystical of men, he was also the most practical, and breathed into his wavering and half-hearted adherents a spirit and constancy which was not their own.

"And so farewell to the Christian hero, 'the happy warrior,' upon whom has come nothing which 'he did not foresee.' We, who are his countrymen, will cherish an affectionate remembrance of him while we live. We know that we cannot imitate the actions and characters of great men; we can only appreciate them. No effort of ours will place us on a level with them. Yet we pray also that some good influence may flow from them to us which may raise us above the conventionalities of the world, above the fashion of political opinions, to dwell in the light of justice, in the constancy of truth. And we pray for this nation also, that the lesson of a great man's death may not be lost upon us; but that in our public acts, as well as in our private lives, we may gather from him courage and firmness and wisdom and self-sacrifice and strength in all the trials which the English people may have to undergo in generations to come. And whether nations, like individuals, tend naturally to decay or not, whether our own country is about to lose something of her ancient power and glory, or, like an eagle, to mount upward and to renew her youth, we may acquiesce in either result, even though we are overmatched by the military or material development of other European States, if only the best qualities of Englishmen flourish and abound in us. For the true life of a nation, as of an individual, consists not in the multitude of her possessions, but in righteousness and peace, in intelligence and education, in the love of truth and justice, in the fulfilment of the destiny which God has assigned to her in the world."

A JOURNEY THROUGH SECHUAN.

A Parliamentary paper issued on Saturday, containing Mr. Hosie's narrative of his journey through Central Sau-ch'uan, is far and away the most readable contribution to official literature which we can remember. The author is a member of the Consular Staff in China, and the special object of his mission was to make inquiries regarding the nature and economic history of the insect wax which is so extensively used to make candles, though comparatively little of it is exported to Europe. The insects which were the special object of Mr. Hosie's solicitude are produced in the galls found in one species of trees. After escaping from these excrescences, they deposit their cerous secretion on the leaves of another, to which they are often carried long distances by porters, who travel at a rapid pace over mountain and valley and river, terrified lest the precious freight, by escaping from their nests, should nullify the entire purpose of what Mr. Baber has described as their headlong flights. The first coating of the wax on the boughs and twigs gets thicker and thicker, until after from ninety to a hundred days the wax has attained a thickness of about a quarter of an inch. Then, the insects having exhausted themselves, the branches are lopped off, and as much of the incrustation as possible removed by hand. This is placed in an iron pot, with water, and the wax rising to the surface at melting point is skimmed off and placed in round moulds, whence it emerges as the white wax of commerce. A second quality is obtained by boiling the twigs, and a third by placing the residuum of dead insects in a bag, and squeezing them until they have given up the last drop of their precious fluid. Finally, the crushed pulp is used to feed the pigs. The wax is so hard that, while tallow melts at ninety-five degrees, one hundred and sixty can be reached before the cerous excretion which Mr. Hosie was sent to study shows any symptoms of giving way.

The record of Mr. Hosie's journey also affords interesting and curious glimpses of the almost Arcadian life of inland China. The traveller through Sau-ch'uan and the adjoining provinces feels that he is in a land where civilisation has been long at work, and the people have grown into the mould which Nature has cast. Nothing is new, or crude, or tentative, or progressive. Everything is old, ingenious, and, if *passé* in the eyes of the outer barbarian, seems so thoroughly in keeping with the country that one can scarcely wish to see any change. Waste lands there are none, and idle people seem as rare. Every rood is cultivated when cultivation would return an equivalent to the toil of the tiller, and, hard though the life of the farmer appears to be, we hear of the labourers singing as they hoe, and of coolies boasting of the blessings of the paternal government which obtains for them so happy a lot. The roads do not admit of easy riding. But the collie-borne chair supplies the place of the mule in other countries, and the observer can in this way escape being the observed of all other observers. From this point of vantag ehe glances here at the fisherman hauling in his harvest by means of an ingenious purse net, there at the gardener busy at his pleasing toil. Melon patches, with their mottled leaves and great orange star-shaped flowers, may be seen on many a sunny slope. Beneath are plots of taro, with their graceful heart-shaped leaves lowering their tips into the water half covering their stems, while underneath terrace after terrace of young rice fields, fringed by rows of beans, stretches into the valley, and miniature cascades foam from level to level to join the gurgling brook below. Frame this bit of scenery with tall pines, straight young water oaks, and the fan-shaped fronds of the palm, and a picture is presented of many a spot in Sechuan. At other places the road crosses sullen rivers on dragon-carved bridges, and winds amid hamlets of farm houses, with the homesteads nestling amid clumps of bamboo, wood-oil tree, mulberry, and banyan, and hard by patches of indigo, hemp, ginger-tobacco, opium (which is grown plentifully despite all the Imperial restrictions to the contrary), and the small bean from which the favourite curd cheese of the Sau-ch'uanese is made. Apricot orchards are frequent, cotton fields are often met with, and the silk worm affords occupation to millions of busy hands. The varnish tree generally fringes the highways, and the indications of trade afforded by the junks moored to the banks of the great river, or the pedlars and merchants passed at every turn, are not so engrossing but that crowds of pilgrims bound to the Buddhist shrine on the summit of Mount O-mei tempt the traveller to join the company for the gratification of his senses, if not for the improvement of his morals.

Mr. Hosie's report further reveals to us how little we really know regarding the interior and resources of the Chinese Empire. Its vastness appals us. In spite of the people at one corner of it not understanding the people at the opposite corner, whom they regard as little better than foreigners, there is, perhaps, no country in the world which is more homogeneous, or in which the population are more intelligent, according to their opportunities, or have a more profound respect for learning. At every step the best maps are found extremely defective, and products of which the world knows nothing are constantly making their appearance. China has inexhaustible supplies of coal, and, at many of the points at which Mr. Hosie touched he found the country people mining both it and iron for their own use. Tea which in England is sold as a "great bargain" for half a crown a pound, is valued at three-halfpence for the same quantity. Junks laden with turmeric, dried bamboo shoots, opium, poppy seeds, calabashes and paper descend the Chen-sha-Chiang, and at Fu-kuan-ta'un are sold cakes made from the roots of a fern, which form the staple food of that part of the province. While, however, the great beauty of the scenery, and the industry and even the politeness of the people cannot but be much admired, it is hard to find language too severe when the interior of the dwellings and the accommodation of their inns come to be described. Sometimes, we are told, a temple, a hotel, and a theatre are combined in one establishment. No matter what the combination, the result is much the same. The food is bad, the beds are worse, and the filth all-abounding. Even the native guest, who is not hard to please provided the bill is low, sometimes vents his displeasure by scrawling his opinion on the walls. For instance, at an inn of an exceptionally good quality an unknown bard relieved his feelings in the following doggerel:—"Within this room you'll find the rats, At least a goodly score; Three catties each they're bound to weigh, Or e'en a little more. At night you'll find a myriad bugs, That stink, and crawl, and bite: If doubtful of the truth of this, Get up and strike a light."

"TAKE NO NOTICE."

Some time ago, says the *Saturday Review*, Mr. Marriott, who has a special commission for saying things unpleasant for Radical Ministers, said at a public meeting what most Englishmen have been saying in private about the very singular opportunities which Mr. Gladstone takes for patronising the drama. This shocked some admirer of Mr. Gladstone very much, and (they are friends, perhaps, more zealous than agreeable, these admirers) he brought it to Mr. Gladstone's notice, as the phrase for this purpose made and provided in a penny-a-lining English has it. Mr. Gladstone replied that "He thinks it best to take no notice of such reflections as those to which you call his attention." The court is with Mr. Gladstone, very heartily with him. It was undoubtedly the best thing for Mr. Gladstone to take no notice of such reflections, though it might be better still not to have done the things which give occasion to such reflections. But it must be obvious to any one who knows the Premier's habits that there must be, as is vulgarly said, "something up" when Mr. Gladstone adopts this judicious but unaccustomed mode of defence. When Clifford cannot spare his friends an oath, when Mr. Gladstone is not ready with a *distinguo*, things have gone far, very far, out of their ordinary condition. A vague legend has got about that Mr. Gladstone entirely declines to regard this present post-haste and rummage in the land as anywhere out of the way. There is no expedition to Souakim, or anywhere else; it is only a "relief of battalions," the same sort of thing, say, as when the Guards go from Windsor to the Wellington Barracks, or from the Wellington Barracks to Windsor. This is the Mr. Gladstone that we know; but the Mr. Gladstone who thinks it best to take no notice is a new and remarkable Mr. Gladstone. Think what an opening for causistry there was in Mr. Marriott's statements? It might have been urged, as Mr. Cox or Mr. Box of Nottingham, we really forget which, urged the other day in the *Daily News* about a greater matter, that, as the act was Mr. Gladstone's act, it must be right, and there need be no more bother about it. It might have been suggested that it was not Mr. Gladstone, but a dummy dressed up by wicked Tories. That the reputed author of the play belongs to a party so notoriously eager for the success of the English arms that mere assistance at his drama was an act of warlike defiance to England's foes. That General Gordon was a troublesome person (which, indeed, has been the constant Ministerial view about the latest addition to the red-letter saints of the calendar of English heroism), and that it did not matter whether he was dead or not. That Khartoum was a long way off, and that Mr. Gladstone wishes it were further. That it is a poor heart that never rejoices. That the Redistribution Bill is practically safe. That Lord Rosebery was ready to join the Government. That Lord Randolph Churchill is in India. That there are no signs of the dawn of intelligence in Parliamentary intellects of the Caine-Fowler order. That Lord Ripon, having done as much harm as he could (which was a good deal) in India, is now doing as much harm as he can (which is not much) in England. That Lent is at hand, and Mr. Gladstone does not like going to the theatre in Lent. That Sir Stafford Northcote is still leader of the Opposition. That *The Candidate* is a satire upon Parliamentary government, and so is Mr. Gladstone himself. All these, and more than all these, things Mr. Gladstone might have said, but he did not; he thought it best to take no notice, and best it undoubtedly was—that is to say, if it had been possible. What is really most pleasing about this little incident is that Mr. Gladstone has here unconsciously summarised the entire foreign and much of the home policy of his Government. Lord Granville thought it best to take no notice of Prince Bismarck's letters. Lord Derby thought it best to take no notice of the wishes of the Australians. Mr. Chamberlain thought it best to take no notice of the demands of Mr. Jarvis and some other persons that they should not be libelled under the cover of the privilege of Parliament, and will doubtless think it best to take no notice of the mishap of Mr. Tangye's nephew and of the abject "coming down" of his friends at Birmingham who provided the affidavits. But the Government bodily, and Mr. Gladstone himself as their representative and head, may be thought to have illustrated most admirably this policy of taking no notice. They took no notice of the advance of Russia in Central Asia. They took no notice of the little fact, that if you sometimes insult and always ignore the most powerful nation on the Continent, it is likely to do you an ill-turn some fine day. They took no notice of the very patent other facts that French friendship was uncertain and almost valueless, Russian enmity certain and threatening. As to Egypt the whole of the memorable and disastrous events of the last three years may be said to have arisen from a courageous, an heroic maintenance of the policy of "take no notice."

GORDON'S LETTERS FROM KHARTOUM.

The story of the later months of Gordon's heroic defence of Khartoum is told in the new Blue-book, issued on Monday, in the usual disconnected fashion of such documents. They contain "edited" despatches from Sept. 30, 1884, to Jan. 30, 1885. We can only regret that the story of the defence of Khartoum, as told by General Gordon, is not before us—an account in which we should doubtless learn something of what the defender thought of his friends and employers in England and Egypt; we must, however, be content with the "edited" portion, referring to which the *Times* says:—"Having left their devoted servant to perish for want of timely relief, the Government now raise an appropriate memorial by garbling his messages and suppressing whatever might be disagreeable to those responsible for his desertion."

The series of papers opens with a report on the affairs at Souakim from Commodore Molyneux to the Admiralty, this being followed by Sir Evelyn Baring's despatch containing the Mudir of Dongola's telegram describing the reported bombardment of Berber by General Gordon which was published at the time. The most important despatch during September was one containing a telegram summarising letters from General Gordon from the 21st of April to the 31st of July, stating:—"Let relief expedition follow right bank of the Nile from Wady Halfa to Berber. Hopes to surprise Berber. If impossible to follow Nile route, take Massowa, Sankeit, Kassala road. Says he would not leave Khartoum if he could, could not if he would." On the 5th of October Lord Wolseley communicated from Wady Halfa, where he had just arrived, the first report of the murder of Stewart and party; and despatches during this month contain frequent references to the tragic affair. On the 8th of October Sir Evelyn Baring sent Lord Granville a copy of a letter to M. Barrère from M. Herbin, French Consul at Khartoum (who was murdered with Colonel Stewart), dated the 29th of July, stating they were in a strong position at Khartoum, and there was no need for alarm, unless it was want of provisions, which within two months would be exhausted. There was abundance of ammunition, and the least assistance would enable them to relieve the town. They could not retreat southwards without immense exertions and dangers, and Gordon had decided that he would share the fate of the town. The Mahdi at Obeid was perhaps in as bad a situation. On the 14th of November Major Kitchener's messenger from Gordon arrived at Debbeh with a long letter from Gordon to Lord Wolseley, and four Arabic cipher letters, the foremost being dated Khartoum, the 4th of November, and only an abridgment of this is given. It is as follows:—

"KHARTOUM, Nov. 4, 1884.—Post came in yesterday from Debbeh, Kitchener, dated the 14th of October; cipher letters from Lord Wolseley the 20th of September last, which I cannot decipher, for Colonel Stewart took the cipher with him. No other communications have been received here since 31st, letter which arrived on 17th September, a week after Colonel Stewart's steamer left this. On other side are names of Europeans who went with Colonel Stewart in steamer. At Metammeh waiting your orders are five steamers with nine guns. We can hold out forty days with ease. After that it will be difficult. Terrible about loss of steamer. I sent Colonel Stewart, Power, and Herbin down, telling them to give you all information. With Colonel Stewart was the journal of all events from 1st March to the 10th September. The steamer carried a gun and had a good force on board. The Mahdi is here, about eight miles away. All north side along the White Nile is free of Arabs; they are on south and south-west and east of town, some way off; they are quiet. Sennaar is all right and knows of your coming. With steamers are my journals from the 10th of September to date, with all details and map of Berber. We have occasional fights with Arabs. Mahdi says he will not fight during this month,—Moharrdin. With him are all the Europeans, nuns, etc. Rumoured all are become Musulman. Slatin is there. Lupton, Mahdi says, has surrendered. Since 10th March we have had up to date, exclusive of Kitchener's 14th October, only two despatches, one Dongola, with no date; one from Souakim, 5th May; one of some (same?) import, 27th of April. I have sent out a crowd of messengers in all directions during eight months. Get the newspapers to say I received letters through Kitchener from Sir S. Baker, my sister, Stanley from Congo. Do not send any more letters private; it is too great a risk. Do not write in cipher, for I have none; and it is of no import, for the Mahdi knows everything, and you need not fear him. I should take the road from Ambukol to Metammeh, where my steamers wait for you. Leontides, Greek Consul-General; Hansell, Austian Consul, all right. Stewart, Power, and Herbin went down in the *Abbas*. A letter came from Mitzakis the 31st of July from Adowa. The messenger had a letter from King for me, but Mahdi captured it. Please explain that to his Majesty. If journal is lost with Stewart we have no record of events from 1st March to the 10th September, except a journal kept by doctor. Your expedition is for relief of garrison, which I failed to accomplish. I decline to agree that it is for me personally. Stewart's journal was a gem, illustrated with all the Arabic letters of Mahdi to me, etc.

"You may not know what has passed here. The Arabs camped outside Khartoum on 12th March. We attacked them on the 16th of March, got defeated, and lost heavily, also a gun. We then from that date had continual skirmishes with Arabs. Stewart was wounded slightly in arm. On one occasion, when river rose, we drove off Arabs in three of their engagements, and fired their towns. Sent up to Senna ar two expeditions; had another fight, and againwas defeated with heavy loss; the square was always broken. This last defeat was on the 4th of September; since then we have had comparative quiet. We fired three million rounds. The palace was the great place for the firing. Arabs have the Krupps here, and often have hulled our steamers. Arabspcaptured two small steamers at Berber and one on Blue Nile. We have built two new ones, steamers. The steamers had bulwarks, and were struck with bullets 1,090 times each on an average, and three times with shot each. We defended the lines with wire entanglements and live shells as mines, which did great execution. We put lucifer-matches to ignite them.

"The soldiers are only half a month in arrears. We issue paper money, and also all the cloth in magazines. All the captives with Mahdi are well; the nuns, to avoid an Arab marriage, are ostensibly married to Greeks. Slatin is with the Mahdi, and has all his property, and is well treated; but I hear to-day he is in chains. A mysterious Frenchman is with the Mahdi, who came from Dongola. We have got a decoration made and distributed with a grenade in centre, three classes—gold, silver, pewter. Kitchener says he has sent letters and got none in reply. I have sent out during last month at least ten. Steamer with this leaves to-morrow for Metammeh. Do not let any Egyptian soldiers come up here. Take command of steamers direct, and turn out Egyptian fellaheen. If capture of steamer with Stewart is corroborated tell French Consul-General that Mahdi has the cipher he gave Herbin. Hassan Effendi's telegraph clerk was with Stewart. You should send a party to the place to investigate affairs and take the steamer."

On the back of this despatch is a plan and a list of Greeks who were with Stewart in the *Abbas*. Another despatch is the following, from Lord Wolseley to Sir Evelyn Baring:—

"DONGOLA, Nov. 29, 1884.—A messenger sent by Gordon arrived here last night with a letter addressed to the Khedive, Nubar Pasha, and yourself. It is in cipher. The original is dated the 9th of September. This one is a copy, and bears date the 18th of September. Letter begins—'There is money and provisions in Khartoum for four months, after which we shall be embarrassed. At Sennaar also there is doora enough, and the Galabat garrison and neighbourhood continually fighting the inhabitants against the false Mahdi. Although we sent you message saying it was impossible to send Colonel Stewart to Berber on account of the many things that have occurred here, yet we afterwards saw fit to send him and the French and English Consuls in a small steamer to Dongola to communicate concerning the Soudan. We detailed two large steamers to accompany them to Berber, so as to engage the enemy by commanding them and to keep the way clear for them to pass by Berber towards Dongola. How many times have we written asking for reinforcements, calling your serious attention to the Soudan? No answer at all has come to us as to what has been decided in the matter, and the hearts of men have become weary of this delay. While you are eating, drinking, and resting on good beds, we and those with us, both soldiers and servants, are watching by night and day, endeavouring to quell the movement of this false Mahdi. Of course you take no interest for suppressing this rebellion, the serious consequences of which are reverse of victorious for you, and the neglect thereof will not do. In two days' time Colonel Stewart, the Vice Governor-General, and the two Consuls will start from here to Berber, and thence to Dongola. The reason why I have now sent Colonel Stewart is because you have been silent all this while, and have neglected us and lost time without doing any good. If troops were sent, as soon as they reach Berber this rebellion will cease, and the inhabitants will return to their former occupations. It is, therefore, hoped that you will listen to all that is told you by Stewart and the Consuls and look at it seriously, and send troops as we have asked without any delay. Sealed and signed.—C. G. GORDON." Letter ends.

A third despatch relating to General Gordon gives some interesting details which were not published at the time when the last direct communication from him was received. It is sent in a letter from Lord Wolseley to Sir Evelyn Baring, dated Korti, December 31, 1884:—

"The messenger who on the 29th of October started with one of many copies of my messages dated the 20th of September and the 26th of October to General Gordon has just returned here. He brings only a piece of paper the size of a postage stamp on which is written 'Khartoum all right.—Signed, C. G. GORDON. Dec. 14, 1884.' It is genuine, as I know Gordon's writing well. Gordon's seal is on the back of it."

"General Gordon told the messenger to give me following message:—'We are besieged on three sides—Omdurman, Halfaya, and Hoggi Ali. Fighting goes on night and day. Enemy cannot take us except by starving us out. Do not scatter your troops; enemy are numerous. Bring plenty of troops if you can. We still hold Omdurman on the left bank and the fort on the right bank. The Mahdi's people have thrown up earthworks within rifle-shot of Omdurman. The Mahdi lives out of gunshot. About four weeks ago the Mahdi's people attacked Omdurman and disabled one steamer. We disabled one of the Mahdi's guns. Three days after fighting was renewed on the south, and the rebels were again driven back. Saleh Bey and Slatin Bey are chained in Mahdi's camp."

"(Secret and Confidential.)—Our troops in Khartoum are suffering from lack of provisions. Food we still have is little; some grain and biscuit. We want you to come quickly. You should come by Metammeh or Berber. Make by these two roads. Do not leave Berber in your rear. Keep enemy in your front, and when you have taken Berber send me word from Berber. Do this without letting rumours of your approach spread abroad. In Khartoum there are no butter nor dates, and little meat. All food is very dear." Thus ends the message.

Lord Wolseley forwarded to the Marquis of Hartington on the 12th of January a long and interesting despatch, from which we take the following extracts:—

"KORTI, Jan. 12.—On the 31st ultimo I received, as I have already reported by telegraph, a tiny note from General Gordon containing these words only—'Khartoum all right, 14—12—84. C. G. Gordon.' It has been to me a source of heartfelt regret that I was not able to reach this place at an earlier date. My advance has been delayed through the difficulty of collecting supplies at this point, 1,400 miles by river from the sea, in sufficient quantities to warrant an advance into the neighbourhood of a besieged garrison that is veryshort of food, where all the surrounding districts have been laid waste, and where even the besieging army finds it difficult to subsist. I had always thought it possible that upon arrival here I might find it necessary to operate beyond this point in two columns, one continuing up the river in our English-built boats, while the other pushed rapidly across the desert to Metammeh; and it was with the view to securing to myself the power of moving across this desert that in my letter of September 11 last I proposed the formation of a camel brigade of picked troops, under carefully selected officers, organised on lines therein recommended. Any march across this desert with a small column as an isolated operation would be hazardous and, for the purposes of my mission, a most useless undertaking. Such a column would most probably be able to fight its way into Khartoum—possibly it might fight its way out again—but it could not bring away General Gordon and his garrison in safety. Undertaken, however, under present circumstances, the march of a small force across the desert presents a very different aspect. The so-called Mahdi and his supporters are well aware they have to deal not only with it, but also with the English army, which they know is advancing up the Nile on Khartoum by Abou Hamed and Berber. Upon arrival here I had to decide whether I should keep all my force together and follow the Nile Valley to Khartoum or divide it into two columns—one following the river, while the other was pushed rapidly across to Metammeh. If I were not restricted by time the first course would be by far the most satisfactory, the safest, and would ensure the best results; but I know that General Gordon is pressed by want of food, and the hot season is not far off when military operations in this country are trying to the health of European soldiers. I therefore decided upon the last-mentioned course; and as reported to your Lordship by telegraph on the 29th of December, I despatched Brigadier-General Sir Herbert Stewart on the 30th ultimo to seize the Gakdul Wells, which are about 100 miles from this and about seventy-six from Metammeh. . . . . Although the physical obstacles encountered in the ascent of the Nile above the Second Cataract have been considerable, and although the labour of surmounting the many cataracts between Sarras and Hannek has tested to a remarkabledegree the strength and endurance of the troops, the advance of the boats up the river has been accomplished in a manner which has reflected the highest credit upon all ranks, and has conclusively proved, if proof were wanting, that Her Majesty's soldiers of to-day possess all that strength of body and that military pride and regimental spirit for which the British Army has been long renowned."

THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

In the second part of the Boundary Commissioners' Report relating to England and Wales, the Commissioners report that, as far as possible, they have based the formation of the county divisions on petty sessional areas in preference to an aggregate of, parishes, hundreds, or poor-law boundaries. While adopting this general principle, the Commissioners have been bound in some cases to modify their rule in order either to distribute the population of the county with proximate equality amongst the several divisions, or to include in one and the same division important urban districts or communities engaged in similar pursuits. Where county voters have been numerous in a borough, the Commissioners have endeavoured so to adjust the several divisions of the county that the population of the division in which the borough was included should be below that of the rest; but in some instances this could not have been accomplished without either severing populations having similar pursuits, or combining those of a different character. They have, therefore, dealt with each case according to its peculiar circumstances, having found it impossible to arrive at any definite rule on the subject. In selecting the name of a division, the Commissioners have adopted that of some merged borough within it, and, in cases where there have been more than one borough, they have chosen the most important. This question is the one which has provoked most dispute in the districts concerned, one side favouring the view taken by the Commissioners; another urging that divisions should be named after the points of the compass, in order to preserve the county name to each; a third contending that a merged borough ought not to have a preference over a more important town or a well-known district. The Commissioners remark that the anxiety of urban authorities for the designation of divisions by the name of their borough probably arose from an erroneous impression that if a town gave its name to a division it would necessarily become the place for holding the court for the election of the member. The Commissioners have formed the 43 counties into 243 divisions. In the case of boroughs the Commissioners have adopted a division by wards, and in consequence of the feeling in the boroughs generally in favour of this division, the Commissioners, have, in some cases, allowed a greater disparity of population than they would otherwise have recommended. With regard to the extension of borough boundaries, the Commissioners felt that they were precluded from recommending any enlargement of so extensive a character as would entitle the borough to an additional member, or to take away a member from the adjoining county. In several cases, where the Commissioners had reason to suppose that a borough did not embrace the whole of the population that ought to be included therein, they have recommended the extension of the boundaries. The Commissioners formed 27 boroughs into 91 divisions. In the course of their inquiries the attention of the Commissioners has been drawn to the effect which the division of certain boroughs will have with respect to the exercise of the franchise by non-resident freemen. At present their votes may be taken at any of the polling-places within the borough; and it is obvious, therefore, that some provision must now be made for determining the division within which they shall vote. Other

questions which have come before the Commissioners were those of the frequent extension of municipal boundaries without any concurrent extension of the Parliamentary boundaries, and numerous instances where parishes or parts of parishes belonging to the county are locally situate within another. On these matters the Commissioners suggest that provision should be made in the Bill for enabling the Revising Barrister at the first registration to apportion, in alphabetical order, the non-resident freemen equally amongst the several divisions of the borough, the appointment to last for the voter's lifetime, new freemen to be added in like manner at subsequent registrations. Secondly, they suggest that with respect to municipal extensions by private Bill, such schemes should be the subject of a special report to the House, in order that provision may be made, if thought desirable, for the concurrent extension of the Parliamentary boundaries. Thirdly, with regard to isolated parts of parishes, whenever they are annexed to some adjoining parish, it is suggested that any part so incorporated shall be deemed to be part of the parish to which it is annexed for Parliamentary purposes. Eighty-one local inquiries have been held by Sub-Commissioners. The report contains a large number of very carefully prepared maps, and consists of 100 pages of typography.

A PARISH CLERK'S DEFENCE OF THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

We print below some extracts from an admirable letter addressed to the *Bucks Herald* by Mr. Joseph J. Jenns, the Parish Clerk of Aylesbury, and alluded to in our leading columns this week. It was written in reply to a challenge from a Dissenting preacher named Davies. Mr. Jenns explains that his authority for the general statistics here quoted is the *Official Year Book of the Church of England*, just published; and the local statistics are taken from the Parish Registers:—

"I place the following facts before your readers with pleasure, as I am confident that the enemies of our Church are anxious to make men believe that the Church of England is not the Church of the people. They speak with infinitely more authority than all the din and clamour of the Liberation Society. Take first, the marriages. Out of every 100, only 5 take place in the places of worship of the 150 different sections of Nonconformists, as given in *Whitaker's Almanack* yearly. Secondly, the burials. I am not in a position to speak generally, but only to give unanswerable facts as to the burials in the cemetery at Aylesbury—a town that we can well take as fairly representative. And here I would remind your readers that though all pay fees, and in some cases heavy ones, this does not in the least affect the number of burials in consecrated ground. The following are the statistics of all the burials in Aylesbury for the past thirteen years:—

	BURIALS.			
Year.	Total No.	Church of England.	Nonconformist.	No Ceremony.
1871	151	114	31	6
1874	138	109	21	8
1878	162	119	34	9
1883	146	108	31	7
1884	134	96	31	7

"Thirdly, baptisms. In St. Mary's Church in 1882, 170 were baptised, or an average of 20 above the whole of the death-rate of Aylesbury-with-Walton. In 1883 there were 144. Such facts show that the majority are baptised, married, and buried by the clergy of the Church of England.

"Then as to the analysis of last year's Hospital Sunday collections. In London alone the Church of England gave the magnificent sum of £25,127 3s. 7d., and all the Nonconformists, including those of no religious persuasion at all, the sum of £7,762 12s. In the country the Church of England contributed the sum of £25,885, against £13,612 contributed by all other denominations.

"Take Foreign Missions. In the year 1883 Churchmen contributed the sum of £491,647, against £341,046 by all other denominations collectively.

"The voluntary subscriptions of Church people for our schools in 1883 were £577,314, against £138,356 contributed by all other denominations put together.

"Once more, Sir, take the fact that Churchmen spent no less a sum than £894,971 on their churches in the year past, 1884.

"Sir, when Mr. Davies sees that in the matter of Hospital Sunday, in London alone, the Church gave three times as much as all other denominations put together, or twelve times as much as the Congregationalists, and twenty-four times as much as the Wesleyans; and that it gave four times as much as all the Nonconformists put together in support of Voluntary schools, he will see how unwarrantable was his assertion that Nonconformists are more liberal than the Church of England.

"It happened by a strange coincidence to be 321 years ago that day that the Aylesbury registers were started, and considering that Government registration did not begin till the year 1837, Mr. Borlase is justified in his verdict of the priceless value of the Church registers. How many have had cause to thank God for this department of Church work! That much lawful property has been regained by its owners; that wrongs have been righted; that we have the knowledge of our ancestry dating back between 300 and 400 years—all this is owing solely to the faithfulness of the Church of England in past generations. Nor should we as a nation forget that we owe our national holidays to the same source.

"Such then, are the facts that were placed by me before the Debating Society in my defence of the Church of England, in answer to which Mr. Davies challenged me to insert them in the Aylesbury papers, characterising some or all of them as untrue, and that, I am sorry to say, in language neither courteous nor consistent with the ordinary rules of debate. I then laid my notes upon the table, giving every member the opportunity of copying them. It now remains for Mr. Davies to disprove them—if he can.

"These facts tell us in clear tones that the Church of England has not lost 'touch' of the people of this nation. They rather tell us that the Church is as strong as ever, and that in quietness and confidence is her strength. The Liberation Society may rest content that, clamour as they may, they will always find Churchmen prepared to defend their own to the total discomfiture of all enemies."

Ecclesiastical.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Rev. H. G. Baily, Vicar of Swindon, to Rectory of Liddiard-Tregoz, near Swindon.

Rev. J. G. Barnsdale, Weymouth, to be Licensed to Officiate in the Diocese of Salisbury.

Rev. C. P. Baxter, Streatham, to be Licensed to Officiate in the Diocese of Canterbury and Rochester.

Rev. A. Brutton, Oxon, Curate-in-Charge of Muggleswick, co. Durham, to be Incumbent of Etall, Northumberland. Patrons, the Earl of Glasgow and Captain Theodore Williams.

Rev. F. P. Burnett, to Vicarage of St. Thomas's, Colnbrook, Bucks. Patron, the Bishop of Oxford.

Rev. W. H. Cooke, to be Chaplain to the Norwich City Asylum.

Rev. H. Dallimore, to Vicarage of Halvergate and Vicar of Tunstall. Patron, the Bishop of Norwich.

Rev. F. B. De Chair, Rector of Morley, Norfolk, to be Evening Lecturer at Wymondham Church. Patrons, the Trustees of Papillon's Charity.

Rev. F. A. Friend, Curate, to Vicarage of St. Peter's, Belper.

Rev. R. S. de Courcy Laffan, Head Master of King Edward VI. Grammar-school, Stratford-on-Avon, to be Chaplain of Guild Chapel, Stratford-on-Avon.

Rev. E. B. Lavies, Curate of St. Luke's, Derby, to Vicarage of Donisthorpe. Patron, the Bishop of Southwell.

Rev. J. H. Light, Reader of St. Nicholas', Abingdon. Patrons, the Governors of Christ's Hospital, Abingdon.

Rev. H. C. Littlewood, to Vicarage of Goring, Oxon. Patron, Mr. Charles Lawrence Weare Gardiner, of the Temple, Goring.

Rev. T. G. Lockhart, to Vicarage of Wingrave, Bucks. Patron, Earl Brownlow.

Rev. J. McGill, Vicar of Stoke Ferry, Norfolk; to be Surrogate for the Diocese of Norwich.

Rev. S. L'Estrange Malone, Mus. Bac. Dublin, Minor Canon of Worcester Cathedral, to Rectory of Dalton Holme. Patron, Lord Hotham.

Rev. T. Mayo, Licensed to Officiate in the Diocese of Lichfield.

Rev. A. N. Obbard, Vicar of Hersham, Surrey, to Rectory of All Saints', Southampton.

Rev. C. Rolfe, to Vicarage of Benhall. Patron, Mrs. Fanny Stevens Hollond, of 33, Hyde-park-gardens.

Rev. J. Toone, Vicar of St. John's, Battersea, to be Warden of the Rochester Diocesan Deaconess Home.

Rev. J. S. Turner, Curate of Redditch, to Vicarage of Studley. Patrons, Captain and Mrs. Cotton.

Rev. A. Woodin, to Vicarage of Wooburn, Bucks.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF YORK.—Revs. Henry Arthur Ditchett, to Long Marston; Rashleigh Edward Hungerford Duke, to Monk Fryston; Edward Brockholes Michalison, to Darfield (1st Medley); Gwyn Lloyd Moore Rees, to Kirby Underdale; Compton Evelyn Frederick Rees, to North Cave.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF EXETER.—Revs. E. B. Bland, B.A., to Buckland Monachorum; R. H. Fison, B.A., to St. Peter's, Plymouth; H. Gibbon, B.A., to St. James's, Exeter; W. Southerden, to St. John's, Torquay; F. D. Young, to St. James's, Devonport.

LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER.—Rev. Iltyd Lomax Thomas, L.Th. Durham, to Ashton-on-Ribble.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF NORWICH.—Revs. William Knox Ormsby, M.A., to Eaton, Norwich; Anthony Anstruther Wilkinson, to Diss.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF ST. ALBANS.—Revs. Christopher Bromby, to Castle Hedingham; William Ferry, to Brent Pelham; Francis Clement Naish, to Chadwell.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER.—Revs. Ranulph Hamilton Evered, B.A., to Norton and Lenchwick; Arthur Bicknell Stevenson, B.A., to St. James, Edgbaston.

[The announcement of the Rev. A. Codd's appointment to the vicarage of Broadwindsor was premature; it has, we understand, been declined by the rev. gentleman.]

OBITUARY.

Feb. 10, at Southsea, Capel Wolseley, Rector of Sacred Trinity, Salford, Manchester, aged 70.

Feb 13, at Melton, the Rev. H. W. Blake Butler, B.A., aged 55.

Feb. 15, the Rev. John W. Bourke, Vicar of Offerlane, Mountrath, Ireland, aged 76.

Feb. 16, at Wandsworth-common, the Rev. William Henry Long Gilbert, M.A., for eighteen years Chaplain of H.M. Prison, Wandsworth, aged 57.

Feb. 16, at Ripley, the Rev. T. C. Thompson, Rector of Ripley.

Feb. 18, the Rev. William Bulmer Bailey, M.A., Vicar of Axminster, Devon, aged 47.

Feb. 19, the Rev. Roper Trevor Tyler, for forty-seven years Rector of Llantrithyd, Glamorganshire, aged 83.

Feb. 21, the Rev. W. E. Sellon, Rector of Kentchurch and Llangua, aged 66.

Feb. 24, at Arundel, Sussex, the Rev. Robert Halley, M.A., aged 58 years.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGIATE.

OXFORD.

In a Congregation held on Thursday the following degrees were conferred:—

M.A.—C. Tanner, Merton; A. Hurford, Queen's; C. Hayter Haines, Christ Church; J. Oakes, Trinity; W. Peck, Wadham; W. Hobbes, non-collegiate.

B.A.—R. Bowden, W. Stroud, and P. Waterhouse, Balliol; A. Cocks, Exeter; S. Coates, Oriel; T. Ellis and R. Rathbone, New; Hon. A. Handcock and G. Talbot, Christ Church; W. Willson, Pembroke; E. James and W. Lewis, non-collegiate.

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

The Archbishop of Canterbury will preach at the morning service at the Temple Church to-morrow (Sunday), in commemoration of the 700th anniversary of the consecration of the Round Church by Heraclius, Patriarch of Jerusalem, in 1185.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has consented to receive the Archiepiscopal cross, the gift of the clergy of the Southern Province and their friends, on Thursday, April 30, at 12.30, in the Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster Abbey.

We regret to learn that the Bishop of Rochester is advised at once to give up all duty and to leave home for a warmer climate. He hopes to be back by Easter.

The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths have contributed £50 to the funds of the National Society.

The sacrarium of the church of Long Marston, Herts, which was consecrated by the Bishop of St. Albans in 1883, has been laid with encaustic tiles at the expense of the Rev. H. M. Rowdon, Minor Canon of Lichfield, and of Mrs. Rowdon, late of Norcott Court, Tring. In front of the altar is a very fine memorial tile of Bishop Selwyn.

At the last quarterly board of the Tithe Redemption Trust it was resolved, on the certificate of the solicitor to Queen Anne's Bounty, to pay the grant of £50 promised in 1871, to Kirkhampton, diocese of Carlisle. In the case of Aslacton, diocese of Norwich, the board held that the information submitted to them was too incomplete to be entertained.

The Rev. Charles Hamilton, M.A., chaplain and secretary to the Bishop of Quebec, has been elected to fill the See of Niagara, rendered vacant by the death of Bishop Fuller.

A meeting of the Council of the Rochester Diocesan Society was held on Monday. In the absence of the Bishop through continued indisposition the chair was taken by the Archdeacon of Southwark, and there was a numerous attendance. A grant of £100 was made for the site for the church of St. Catharine, Loughborough-park, and £125 for the site for a mission building in the parish of All Saints, Rotherhithe, where a mission is being started by members of Clare College, Cambridge. A resolution was passed expressing the sense of the deep loss sustained by the society through the death of Canon Pritchett, of Charlton, who had been one of the honorary secretaries of the society since its foundation.

By the death of the Rev. William B. Baily, at the age of forty-seven, the valuable vicarage of Axminster, with the curacies of Kilmington and Membury, Devon, has fallen vacant. It is of the value of £1,100 a year, and in the gift of the prebends of Warthill, Grindill, in the chapter of York.

At a very important special meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Society on Wednesday the following questions were brought up for consideration:—1. The hardships caused to Voluntary schools by the 17s. 6d. limitation on the annual Government grant; 2. The refusal of the guardians of the poor, in many cases, to pay the school fees of poor children attending Voluntary schools; and 3. The recent policy of the Education Department in frequently requiring that, in a School Board district, the Board, and not any of the religious bodies, shall supply any deficiency of school accommodation. After prolonged discussion of these questions, definite action on the part of the Society was agreed upon.

Mr. W. Molesworth St. Aubyn, M.P., intends on Monday to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been called to the excessive charges for management of the Queen Anne's Bounty Fund—stated to amount to about £9,000 for 1873—and whether the funds might not be more liberally employed in the augmentation of poor livings by curtailing these charges for management and employing the profits of each year for the object for which the society exists.

At St. Paul's the preachers on the Sundays in next month will be:—March 1st, morning, Dr. Sparrow Simpson; evening, the Bishop of Bedford; 8th, morning, Prebendary Baker; evening, Prebendary Wilson, vicar of Tottenham; 15th, morning, Prebendary Ottey; evening, the Dean of York; 22nd, morning, the Rev. Berdmore Compton; evening, the Rev. W. W. Merry, Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford; 29th, morning, the Rev. J. Duncan; evening, the Rev. F. J. Mount, Prebendary of Chichester, and Vicar of Cuckfield. Dr. Gregory will preach in the afternoons as Canon-in-residence.

The Rev. William Henry Long Gilbert, chaplain to Wandsworth Prison, died last week at his official residence from a severe but short illness, originating in a cold which he caught whilst carrying on his daily duties. Mr. Gilbert was appointed to his chaplaincy by the magistrates of Surrey, in October, 1867, at which time he was senior curate of St. Philip's, Kensington. His long service of nearly eighteen years was faithfully and conscientiously fulfilled.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the council of the Incorporated Free and Open Church Association was held on Wednesday evening at 24, Bedford-street, Strand; Earl Nelson in the chair. The annual meeting was fixed for Wednesday, the 25th of March, and, at the suggestion of Mr. Albert Grey, M.P., it was resolved that the Parish Churches Bill should for this session be introduced into the House of Lords instead of the House of Commons. It was also resolved to print a second edition of 5,000 copies of the prize tract recently issued by the Association, and some important correspondence with the Bishop of Carlisle with reference to the Whitehaven churches having been read, the proceedings terminated.

A stained-glass window has just been put up in Lambeth Church to the memory of the late Archbishop Tait. One compartment of the window contains a representation of the Archbishop in the act of laying the foundation-stone of a church. This has given the artist an opportunity of producing an excellent likeness of the Archbishop, whose features will thus be perpetuated in the parish church with which, during his residence at Lambeth Palace, he was so closely connected. Moreover, there is a certain appropriateness in associating the prelate who founded the Bishop of London's Fund with church building. Our readers will be glad to learn that the "Pedlar's pane" has been restored to the church, a small window having been specially constructed to receive it.

During the recent West London Mission Dr. Hayman delivered two series of addresses on "Faith and Unbelief," at St. Mark's, North Audley-street, and St. Andrew's, Wells-street, the subjects of which were given in our columns some weeks ago. After each address an opportunity was given for personal conference and consideration of special difficulties. On Sunday, the 15th, each church was crowded. In his sermon at St. Mark's, Dr. Hayman read some extracts from a letter lately received by him from the Bishop of Colombo, in whose diocese Buddhism is supposed to retain its purest form, exposing the foul moral tendencies of the *Vinaya*, or sacred book of the Buddhist Canon. Dr. Hayman addressed various audiences of working men gathered from the large employers in Oxford-street, and also at Chelsea, under the auspices of the rector of the parish, Rev. G. Blunt. At the latter meeting some interesting points of political economy, affecting the relations of employers and employed, on the rights of capital and labour, were discussed. Dr. Hayman also preached to the students of St. Mark's Training College, Chelsea; and to a congregation of men only at St. Peter's, Hammersmith, on the subject of purity, on the morning and evening respectively of Sunday, 8th inst., and addressed a meeting in the same parish with discussion on "Difficulties of Faith," on Saturday night.

Some of the clauses of the Charity Commissioners' scheme for the rearrangement of St. Olave's Grammar School, Southwark, have excited considerable opposition. A memorial has been drawn up and has been circulated by the Rector of Rotherhithe and others, protesting against the whole scheme, and especially against the following details:—1. The reduction of the age for leaving the school to the 17th birthday, as restricting the operation of the school in the most successful portion of its work. 2. The erection, beside the Grammar School, under an independent headmaster, of a second (so-called "science") school, almost identical with the other school as far as the age of pupils and subjects of instruction are concerned. 3. The omission to provide for intermediate and higher scholarships, tenable in the upper portion of the Grammar School, such as exist at present, which are so valuable in inducing and assisting meritorious boys of slender means to remain, and benefit by the higher teaching in the school. 4. The making an extra charge for learning Greek, the privilege to study which, where conferred, should be the reward of merit. 5. The absence of the provision for any direct representation of the parents of boys on the Court of Governors. The opposition to the scheme is led by the Rev. E. J. Beck, Rural Dean of Southwark, and other clergy of the neighbourhood. The parents, guardians, and friends of boys now at the school, and other residents of the neighbouring districts, are invited to assist by signing the memorial, a copy of which may be had on application to the honorary secretary, Mr. F. G. Larkin, 44, Trinity-square, S.E.

The second annual meeting of the Church School Company was held on Thursday in the rooms of the National Society—Lord Norton in the chair. Amongst those present were Lord Egerton of Tatton, Sir Walter Farquhar, Archdeacon Emery (chairman of the council), Archdeacon Burney, Canon Gregory, Canon Cromwell, Mr. E. Hicks, M.P., Mr. F. S. Powell, and Mr. Wilfrid Grant (secretary). The report for the past year gave a gratifying account of the first year's operations, ten schools having been opened, with an attendance of about 400 pupils, while upwards of 2,000 additional shares had been taken up. In moving the adoption of the report Lord Norton expressed his satisfaction at the success which had been achieved by the company during the short time it had been at work. The provision for secondary education was, as they all knew, exceedingly limited, notwithstanding the numerous efforts that had been made to supply it. Attempts were being made to provide higher education in the elementary schools at the expense of the ratepayers, but he thought these efforts should be steadily resisted. He believed that the bulk of the middle class would much prefer to have their children educated separately, and would be willing to pay a reasonable fee for a sound commercial education which would fit them for the stations in life that they would probably be called upon to fill. The Church Schools Company had done a great deal already to provide a good secular education combined with religious training, and it deserved warm and hearty support. Archdeacon Emery seconded the motion, and explained at some length the work of the council during their first year. They had had a great many schemes laid before them for new schools, some of which they had adopted, while others were under consideration. He acknowledged the services that had been rendered on committees by Canons Cromwell and Gregory and Mr. F. S. Powell. After remarks by Mr. E. Hicks, M.P., and Mr. Powell, the report was unanimously adopted. The election of members of council and other officers was then proceeded with, and a vote of thanks to the chairman, on the motion of Lord Egerton, seconded by Archdeacon Burney, brought the meeting to a close.

A contemporary gives the following account of a service which took place on Sunday afternoon at St. Saviour's, Walton-place, Chelsea, when a number of Japanese of both sexes, employed at the Japanese Village, attended the church. Except the head man and his wife they were nearly all heathens. Nevertheless, in the presence of a large English congregation, a shortened form of Evensong, including the Creed and Lord's Prayer in the Japanese language, was said by the Rev. H. Maundell, of necessity no one responding, while "The Old Hundredth," "Jesus calls us o'er the tumult," and "Rock of Ages" were sung in English and Japanese, translations being provided. The following is the last verse of "Rock of Ages" in Japanese:—

"Yo ni aru uchi mo
Shiranu mi Kuni no
Iwa naru Yesu yo
Mata shinu toki mo
Sabaki no ori mo
Waga mi wo Kakome."

[The *a* is like *a* in father; *i* is pronounced like *ee* in *meet* or like *i* in *machine*; *u* has the long sound of *u* in *rule, tune*; *o* has the sound of *o* in *no, so*; *e* is like the *e* in met, meddle.]

The lesson read was from St. John iii., and Mr. Maundell chose as his text Habbakuk ii. 20, "The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him." He told the Japanese how he had been in their country, and expressed a hope that, while they learned here many useful lessons of civilisation and art, they would above all become Christians, after which he explained portions of the Apostles' Creed. Speaking in English, Mr. Maundell said that he had ministered in a mission chapel in Japan, on a spot where a few years ago a cross had been carried in mockery and stamped under foot as a token that Christianity should never be taught in Japan. He had presented twenty-seven candidates only recently for confirmation in that mission chapel, which had more than fifty communicants. He urged Englishmen of education and means, and ladies, to offer their personal services in that interesting country. The Rev. Dr. Strickland announced that the services would be continued. If the Japanese are willing to become Christian catechumens instruction classes should surely precede a religious service they cannot understand and in which they are not competent to join.

Amongst the many existing societies whose objects are to help on the spread of Christianity throughout the world the Scripture Readers' Society for Ireland should be more widely known. This society, which was instituted in 1822, and of which the Earl of Shaftesbury is president, has now about fifty missionaries engaged in spreading the Word of God amongst all classes and denominations of the people of Ireland by the simple reading of the Scriptures from house to house, and with individuals by the wayside as opportunity offers, also by the distribution of portions of Scripture. That these Readers have been greatly encouraged by the results of their labours is shown by many of the entries in their journals, while the clergy testify to their valuable assistance in parochial work. New fields of labour are as frequently as possible entered upon, and it is to be regretted that owing to want of funds the committee are unable, as they state in their report, to comply with many of the applications for the appointment of Scripture Readers which they constantly receive from the poorer districts, a fact they desire to commend to the consideration of those who may be able to render the society pecuniary assistance. The offices of the society are at Lower Pembroke-street, Dublin, and 9, Paternoster-row, London.

It is expected that the new sedilia at Canterbury Cathedral which are to form the local memorial of Archbishop Tait will be set up by Easter. It is hoped that the national memorial—a recumbent figure—will also be erected in the course of the present year.

According to the *Northampton Herald* a general meeting of the Restoration Committee of Peterborough Cathedral was summoned on Monday week by the Dean, to consider the proposal made by the Chapter to refer the matters in difference between them and the Restoration Committee to the arbitration of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Among those present were Lord Burghley, Mr. C. I. Strong, Canon Norman, Canon Broughton, the Rev. W. Hopkinson, and Mr. Gates. Many letters were read, for the most part recommending, for the sake of peace, that the reference to arbitration should be accepted, but that the position of the Restoration Committee to the Dean and Chapter should be considered and determined. A very strong letter had been written by Mr. E. P. Monckton on the action of the Dean and Chapter towards the Restoration Committee, and before the question of arbitration was discussed that gentleman was called upon to say a few words on the subject of his letter, which he did in very plain and trenchant language. His remarks were endorsed by the ex-Mayor, Lord Exeter, Dr. Walker, and others. Canon MacDonnell replied, upholding the rights of the Chapter. Lord Exeter proposed, Mr. Monckton seconded, and it was agreed, to refer to the Archbishop on the distinct understanding that both sides would loyally accept his decision as final. A sub-committee was then appointed on behalf of the Restoration Committee, consisting of Mr. Monckton, Mr. Percival, and Dr. Walker, who should take such steps as they thought best in the matter of the arbitration without referring again to the General Committee. It was also made an instruction to the sub-committee that they should consider and report on the position that the Restoration Committee hold towards the Dean and Chapter. We understand (the *Herald* says) that the Archbishop has been sounded on the subject of this reference, and has written a most kind and judicious reply. Mr. Pearson has also been most kind about this matter, and places no difficulties in the way. It was thought by the sub-committee that it ought not to be all composed entirely of laymen, but those present said they were sure the selection would be approved of generally. We think it will. Thus we hope the apparent deadlock may, by the good feeling of all parties, be satisfactorily solved, and we are sure that the interests of the Restoration Committee, and those they represent, are safe in the hands of gentlemen who, while being sound, hard-headed men of business, are also so well known to be most zealous and loyal Churchmen. Meanwhile we trust that, as the Restoration Committee have met the Chapter's wish in this case, that the Chapter will in the future evince a more favourable disposition towards resolutions carried by large majorities of the committee, and in the discussion of which they themselves have taken part.

The *National Church* for March gives the following list of the Church Bills now before the House of Commons:—Burial Fees Bill (Sir A. Gordon), second reading, Wednesday, March 18; Cemeteries Bill (Mr. Richard), second reading, Wednesday, April 22; Church of Scotland Disestablishment Bill (Mr. Dick Peddie), second reading, Wednesday, May 6; Corn Sales Bill—"To provide for greater uniformity in the sale of corn throughout Great Britain" (Mr. Rankin), second reading, July 8; Dean and Chapter Bill (the Chancellor of the Exchequer)—"To make better provision respecting the repair of Cathedrals, and the endowment of Deans and Chapters in England," second reading, Thursday, March 5; Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill (Mr. Broadhurst), second reading, [illegible]; Oaths Bill—"To amend the law as to oaths" (Mr. [illegible]pwood), second reading, March 2; Pluralities Bill ([illegible] Act 2nd), second reading, Wednesday, May 20; Sites for Places of Religious Worship—"To facilitate the acquisition of sites for places of religious worship" (Mr. Broadhurst), second reading, Wednesday, May 20. Mr. Jesse Collings has also given notice of the following motion:—

That, in the opinion of this House, the public Elementary education of the country should be under the management of elected representatives of the people, and that such education should be given free of charge; that, in order to secure these objects, school boards should be elected in every district, under whose control all public Elementary schools should be placed during the hours in which secular instruction is given.

(No date named.) House of Lords:—Roman Catholic Disabilities (Advowsons, &c.) Bill (Viscount Barrington), read first time February 23; Marriages Legalisation Bill (Lord Chancellor), read first time February 23; Ecclesiastical Commissioners Bill (Bishop of Lichfield), read first time February 20.

It was stated by the Rev. Bell Cox in one of his letters that he had been told by the Bishop of Liverpool that the Bishop had been advised by the Archbishop of York and by Chancellor Espin that he had no alternative but to allow the case to proceed, unless Mr. Cox submitted to the decisions of the Judicial Committee. However, it would appear that the Bishop has not consulted Dr. Espin, directly or indirectly, in the business. The charges against Mr. Bell Cox are said to be as follows:—

(*a*) Using altar lights when not wanted for the purpose of giving light. (*b*) Elevating the paten. (*c*) Mixing water with the sacramental wine in the Holy Communion. (*d*) Kneeling and prostrating himself during the Prayer for Consecration. (*e*) Bowing in a ceremonial manner towards a crucifix placed on an erection on the Communion-table, and appearing to be part of such table. (*f*) Making the sign of the cross when giving the elements to the communicants, also when pronouncing the Absolution, and also the Benediction. (*g*) Wearing vestments at the celebration, in particular, an alb, a chasuble, a maniple, and a stole. (*h*) Interpolating the *Agnus Dei*. (*i*) Standing with his back towards the people during the reading of the Epistle and Gospel. (*k*) So ordering the elements that when he broke the bread and took the cup into his hands people were prevented from seeing such breaking and taking. (*l*) Washing the cup which had been used in the administration of the Holy Communion, and immediately after reading the Gospel for the day ceremonially and unlawfully kissing the book from which the Gospel had been read.

THE COURT.

Princess Beatrice and the members of Her Majesty's Household attended Divine Service in the private chapel on Sunday morning. The Very Rev. Randall Davidson, Dean of Windsor, assisted by the Rev. J. J. Hornby, D.D., Provost of Eton College and Honorary Chaplain to the Queen, officiated. The Rev. Dr. Hornby preached the sermon.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice are expected to reside at Windsor Castle till about the close of next month, when they proceed to Darmstadt in order to attend the confirmation of the Hereditary Duke of Hesse.

It is now definitely settled that the marriage of Princess Beatrice with Prince Henry of Battenberg will be solemnised at Osborne about the 23rd or 24th of July. The ceremony, which will be quite private, will take place in Whippingham Church. The honeymoon will be passed at Quarr Castle, Isle of Wight, the seat of Lady Cochrane, which is close to Osborne House.

Her Grand Ducal Highness the Princess Louis of Battenberg (Princess Victoria of Hesse, and granddaughter of Her Majesty) was on Wednesday safely delivered of a daughter.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A vacancy in the list of Associates of the Royal Academy has just been caused by the retirement of the well-known Scotch painter, Mr. Robert Thorburn, whose work in miniature painting gained him considerable fame in earlier days. He was elected A.R.A. in 1848. We believe that another Associate will also shortly transfer his name to the honorary retired list.

At a meeting of the Scottish Purity of Worship Association, held on Tuesday at Dingwall, resolutions were passed against the use of uninspired hymns and organs in public worship. The Rev. Mr. Ross said an organ was as ready to sing "Maggie Lauder" as the 103rd Psalm, and that Christ did not take an organ with Him to the Mount of Olives, nor did Mary and Elizabeth praise Him with the aid of an harmonium.

It is stated that strenuous efforts are being made by the friends of Mr. Edmund Yates to obtain his release from Holloway Gaol on the ground of ill-health. A petition has been sent to the Home Secretary with this object, and stating on the authority of a well-known West-end physician that further imprisonment would endanger the prisoner's life.

Mr. J. F. P. Rawlinson writes to the *Pall Mall Gazette*:—"Having previously heard much of what Mr. Arnold White tells us, I wrote a few days ago to a clergyman whose work lies near the docks, and asked him to send me a couple of 'starving men' to do unskilled work—namely, rolling the grass in the Temple Gardens. After some difficulty he persuaded two men to undertake the job, but as the lowest figure they would accept for their services was 5s. a day each (having first demanded 6s. 6d.), I have learned 'to do without them.'"

Attention is frequently called to the severity of the examinations held for the Military, Civil Service and other professions. The necessity for some brain stimulant of a lasting nature is apparent, and "Liebig's Chemical Food," being rich in phosphoric combinations, is highly recommended.

The Lord Chancellor received on Wednesday a deputation from the Association of Chambers of Commerce, who urged the Government to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the expediency of the codification of the commercial law. Mr. Monk, M.P., Mr. Tritton, and Sheriff Dove Wilson having spoken, the Lord Chancellor said that there was more difficulty about the matter than the deputation seemed to anticipate. The Government, however, would be quite willing to consider any well-considered scheme for dealing with codification in detail, but not *en bloc* as proposed.

A conference on the Bengal Tenancy Bill was held at Willis's Rooms on Wednesday, and resolutions protesting against the Bill being passed in its present form, as subversive of the rights of the agricultural community of Bengal, and as introducing into India the dangerous principles of recent Irish legislation, were unanimously adopted. Lord Bramwell presided.

Severe gales prevailed in the north of Ireland and in Scotland on Sunday. Scarcely a farmsteading in the counties of Aberdeen and Kincardine escaped damage, and hundreds of stacks of corn have been carried away by the hurricane. On one farm at Ellon, thirty-three sheep were blown into a ditch and smothered. On Sunday afternoon a vessel was seen to founder near Slains Castle. From large quantities of wreckage that have since been cast ashore it appears she was the *Blue*, schooner, of Fraserburgh, which left Sunderland on Thursday with coals for Fraserburgh. A large wave was seen to strike the ship, which immediately foundered, and all hands perished. No assistance could be rendered. The Great North of Scotland Railway was blocked by drifts which in some places were from sixteen to eighteen feet deep.

About three days after the steamer *Celtic* left New York, a mailbag was found on board cut open. It contained despatches from the English Consul at New York to Her Majesty's Government. The despatches had evidently been opened and read, as they were torn and crumpled. Another specially sealed bag was discovered inside the first one. The seal was broken and the letters and other things had been disturbed; but whether anything had been abstracted is at present unknown. It is thought highly probable that this is a Fenian endeavour to discover what was passing between the Consul at New York and the Government. Another theory is to the effect that some clever thief got hold of the bags believing them to contain registered letters enclosing money and jewellery.

A correspondent writes to the *Standard* to call attention to a scandalous piece of sacrilege, which, he says, is taking place at Godstowe, about two miles from Oxford. "Some men are being employed in widening the river, and in their excavations of the ground, which is close to the old Godstowe Nunnery, they have come across some stone coffins in almost perfect condition, containing the bones of some of the nuns who used to live there. Several of the coffins have been broken up, and the bones taken out, given away, or stolen, and I even heard that a skull was offered for sale for a shilling! but for this I cannot vouch. On Sunday I saw some boys playing with the few remaining bones, and one whistling a tune and beating on a skull with a stick by way of accompaniment."

A discovery of much interest has just been made by workmen engaged in excavation in the lobby of the French Huguenot church in the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral. A finely chiselled head and fragments of stone, many of which are richly gilded, and in one of which a pearl remains, have been exhumed. They are undoubtedly portions of the shrine of St. Dunstan. It was at the time of the Reformation that the shrine is believed to have been damaged, and it is supposed that the pieces were subsequently collected as rubbish and thrown in the Black Prince's Chantry (the present site of the French church), where St. Dunstan himself is said to have been interred.

It has been ascertained that the burial place of the Lovat family, near Beauly, Inverness-shire, has been entered, and the name-plates removed from seven of the coffins. The village blacksmith, it is said, was requested to do this, it being stated that the plates were to be cleaned. He was directed to leave the plates at the residence of a parish minister. They lay there for some time, but some of them are now in a tradesman's possession in Inverness. The Lovat succession case is now pending before the House of Lords, and as it is important to know the dates of the death of some of the members of the family, the removal of plates bearing those dates has excited much comment.

In London 2,526 births and 1,497 deaths were registered last week. Allowing for increase of population, the births were 302 and the deaths 429 below the average numbers in the corresponding weeks of the last ten years. The annual death-rate per 1,000 from all causes declined to 19·1. The deaths included fifty-two from small-pox, thirty-one from measles, fourteen from scarlet fever, fourteen from diphtheria, forty-three from whooping-cough, and eleven from dysentery.

The Salvation Army have held a "council of war" at Manchester, and have been occupied in discussing the reported cures effected by "Major" Pearson at Hanley. "General" Booth, who took part in the proceedings, naïvely remarked that "the idea of the miracles was absurd, but the evidence in its favour was too strong to be withstood." On Monday evening a "faith-healing" meeting was held in connection with the council of war. "Major" Pearson, as usual, was the operator; but on this occasion he was assisted by a Liverpool lady. The "Major" having announced that the miracles about to be performed were due to "Holy Ghost Spiritualism," and the Liverpool lady having informed the audience that "the Holy Ghost had entered the room," the proceedings commenced. We are invited to believe that a girl who had been deaf the greater part of her life was made to hear distinctly; that a lame boy was made to walk without crutches; and that a girl was cured of four years' lameness. With regard to this last case, we are told that "General" Booth "confiscated" the girl's crutches, which, he said, "should be placed in a museum." And in a museum, as a satisfactory monument of the enlightened scepticism of the educated rationalistic nineteenth century, they certainly ought to be.

Some interest attaches to the proposed changes in the examination system at Oxford, especially as one of the indirect results will be a lessening, if not a total abolition, of Greek as a necessary subject of study at the university. The suggestion is that Pass-Moderations should cease to be compulsory on candidates in the final honour-schools; the idea being that "many men who have been properly taught at school waste the first year of their Oxford life in going over again work that they have done years before." But it is not proposed to abolish without replacing; and the new scheme provides for the substitution of preliminary examinations in each of the various subjects of the honour-schools on the model of that which already exists under the name of Honour-Moderations for candidates in *Literæ Humaniores*. At present the plan has not advanced far, and it is still under discussion, although the proposed changes are in general favourably spoken of; but it will not escape notice that they are somewhat restricted in their scope, as they do not apply to the theological schools or to the large army of passmen. No doubt these last will shortly be considered with a view to alteration of some kind.

The Lord Mayor on Wednesday evening gave a dinner to the City Companies, and in proposing their health adverted to the Royal Commission which had sat regarding them, and to the Report of the Commission which had been issued, pointing out, amidst loud cheers from the assembled guests, that in spite of the charges of the foulest corruption and peculation existing in the administration of the Companies, upon which the Commission was granted, the result of the inquiry had been that not in one single instance had those charges been substantiated. The Companies now stood higher in the esteem of the citizens, around whose hearts they were entwined by the recollections and the incidents of centuries, than they had ever done. The Lord Mayor subsequently proposed the health of our colonies, and paid an eloquent tribute to their recent manifestations of loyalty and devotion to the Crown and the mother country. The Agent-General for New South Wales and the ex-Premier of South Australia acknowledged the toast.

The *School Guardian* points out that a very high authority may be quoted to show that our English criminal law is founded on the Decalogue as it is interpreted by the Church Catechism. Mr. Justice Stephen, in his work on the Criminal Code Bill, on which he has bestowed so much labour, speaking of the importance of its adoption by Parliament, says that the codified criminal law of England would represent nothing less than the deliberate measured judgment of the English nation, the accumulated experience of six or seven centuries at least, and that it might be described with truth as an expansion of the Second Table of the Ten Commandments. "The statement in the Catechism (he says) of the positive duties of man to man corresponds step by step with the prohibitions of a Criminal Code. Those who honour and obey the Queen will not commit high treason or other political offences. Those who honour and obey in their due order and degree those who are put in authority under the Queen will not attempt to pervert the course of justice, nor will they disobey lawful commands, or violate the provisions of Acts of Parliament, or be guilty of corrupt practices with regard to public officers, or in the discharge of powers confided to them by law. Those who hurt nobody by word will not commit libel or threaten injury to persons, property, or reputation; nor will they lie in courts of justice or elsewhere, but will keep their tongues from evil speaking, lying, and slandering. Those who hurt nobody by deed will not commit murder, administer poison, or wound or assault others, or burn their houses, or maliciously injure their property. Those who keep their hands from picking and stealing will commit neither thefts nor fraudulent breaches of trust, nor forgery, nor will they pass bad money. Those who keep their bodies in temperance, soberness, and chastity will not only not commit offences against these virtues, but will avoid the causes which lead to the commission of nearly all crimes. Those who learn and labour truly to get their own living will not be disorderly persons, cheats, impostors, rogues, or vagabonds, and, at all events, will have taken a long step towards doing their duty in the state of life to which it has pleased God to call them."

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.—The aggregate number of patients relieved during the week ending Feb. 21 was—medical 904, surgical 601; total 1,505, of which 674 were new cases.

CAUTION.—WATER FILTRATION.—The public are cautioned, before purchasing Filters, to see that what they buy are really water purifiers, and not mere strainers, which latter, although rendering water bright, do not remove the organic and mineral impurities. Filters professing to remove lime effectually are fallacy, as no filter yet invented will do so permanently, and all filters in which sponge is introduced are on the old system, for using which with the idea of removing organic matter (that usually productive of disease) the public were cautioned against, as being of no avail, in the instructions to the local boards of health by order of the Privy Council; and this caution is the more necessary as these filters are constantly advertised as a new patent, whereas the ONLY PATENTED FILTERS, containing nothing but the purest animal charcoal, are those supplied by the LONDON AND GENERAL WATER-PURIFYING COMPANY (Limited), 157, Strand (four doors from Somerset House), W.C.—Read "Water: its Impurities and Purification." Price 6d.

THROAT IRRITATION AND COUGH.—Soreness and dryness, tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. In contact with the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, the Glycerine in these agreeable confections becomes actively healing. Sold only in boxes, 7½d., tins 1s. 1½d., labelled, "JAMES EPPS AND CO., Homœopathic Chemists, London." Dr. George Moore, in his work on "Nose and Throat Diseases," says: "The Glycerine Jujubes prepared by James Epps and Co. are of undoubted service as a curative or palliative agent." While Dr. Gordon Holmes, Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary, writes: "After an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit (with or without medical treatment) in almost all forms of throat disease."

"laden with the scent of flowers,
And breath of odorous spring."

SPINNER'S TEA.—A company of merchants are now selling through Spinner & Co. the choicest tea that comes from India and China at 2s. 8d. a pound, in packets only. This is the perfection of tea, and will please the most fastidious.—Agents wanted in every town and village. For terms, apply to Spinner & Co., 60, Strand, London.—SPINNER & CO., London and Liverpool.

"They come as a boon and a blessing to men,
The Pickwick, the Owl, and the Waverley Pen."
The latest invention for rapid writing.
The FLYING SCOTCHMAN Pen } 6d. to 1s. per box,
The SCOTCH EXPRESS Pen, } of all Stationers.
"The fastest pens we ever used."—SPORTSMAN.
Sample box with all kinds, by post, 1s. 1d.
Patentees, MACNIVEN and CAMERON, Edinburgh.

BIRTHS.

Feb. 19, at Ruislip Vicarage, Uxbridge, the wife of the Rev. T. MARSH EVERETT, of a daughter.

Feb. 20, at St. Stephen's Vicarage, St. Albans, the wife of the Rev. W. D. W. DUDLEY, of a son.

Feb. 20, at the Vicarage, Ulpha, Cumberland, the wife of the Rev. WILLIAM KEWLEY, of a daughter.

Feb. 21, at 55, Manchester-street, the Viscountess LEWISHAM, of a daughter.

Feb. 21, at St. James's Vicarage, Bristol, the wife of the Rev. J. HALT DAVIES, of a daughter.

Feb. 21, at Tudor House, Durdham Down, Bristol, the wife of the Rev. JOHN HENRY WILKINSON, of a son.

Feb. 22, at Huntingdon House, Loats-road, Clapham, the wife of the Rev. THOMAS H. GREIG, of a daughter.

Feb. 22, at West Chiltington, Sussex, the wife of the Rev. H. C. SQUIRES, of a son.

Feb. 24, at 16, Burns-street, Nottingham, the wife of the Rev. T. E. CLEWORTH, Vicar of St. Thomas's, Nottingham, of a son.

Feb. 23, at Elmside, South Wood-lane, Highgate, the wife of the Rev. ALEXANDER SANDISON, of a son.

Feb. 23, at St. Mark's Vicarage, Norwich, the wife of the Rev. J. W. COLVIN, of a daughter.

Feb. 23, at 91, Eaton-terrace, the wife of the Rev. ARCHIBALD A. KNOLLYS, of a daughter.

Feb. 24, at Stapleton Rectory, Bristol, the wife of the Rev. HENRY BULLER HEBERDEN, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Jan. 27, at Morar, Central India, ARTHUR H. C. DANE, M.D., son of Surgeon-General Dane, C.B., to ISABELLA FRANCIS, second daughter of the late Rev. CHARLES YATE, Rector of Holme, Yorkshire.

Feb. 8, at St. George's, Hobart Tasmania, CHARLES CHOLMELEY, the youngest son of the late Captain DOWLING, 73rd Regiment, to LAVINIA, the youngest daughter of the late Sir JAMES MILNE WILSON, K.C.M.G.

Feb. 12, at St. John's, Brixton, the Rev. T. G. WEIR-PONTON, Missionary Curate English Church, Rue D'Agnesseau, Paris, to HARRIET, daughter of the late RICHARD CONNERY, Esq., of Belfast.

Feb. 12, at St. Mary's Church, Great Baddow, Lieutenant PEREGRINE WILLIAM PEPPERRELL HUTTON, R.N., eldest son of Henry Hutton, Esq., J.P., of Beaumont, Cape Colony, to EVELYN AUGUSTA, daughter of the Rev. A. W. BULLEN, Vicar of Great Baddow.

Feb. 14, at St. Simon's Church, Southsea, Lieutenant-Colonel ALERED TRITTON WINTLE, late Royal Artillery, son of the late Major-General Wintle, Bengal Army, to LUCY, second daughter of THOMAS RAMSEY DINNIS, Paymaster H.M.S. *Minotaur*.

DEATHS.

Jan. 3, suddenly, at New Norfolk, Tasmania, HOLLES KNOX, of St. Kilda, Victoria, second son of the late Rev. Thomas Knox, D.D., Head Master of the Tunbridge Grammar School, Kent, England, aged 61 years.

Feb. 17, at Southampton, LOUISA MARY, widow of the Rev. F. B. PRYOR, Rector of Bennington, Herts, aged 63 years.

Feb. 19, after many years of suffering, LAURA FANNY, eldest daughter of the late Rev. E. W. BARLOW, D.D., aged 35.

Feb. 21, at North Elmham Vicarage, Norfolk, ALICE MARY, the wife of the Rev. AUGUSTUS G. LEGGE, Vicar of North Elmham.

Feb. 24, at Sea View, South Shields, Alderman GLOVER J.P., in his 84th year.

LATEST NEWS.

Souakim, Feb. 27.

During the last two nights the enemy have wrecked three of the advanced redoubts without exploding the mines prepared in each by the Naval Brigade and the Engineers. The rebels have also removed nearly 2,000 sand-bags, and done other damage.

Korti, Feb. 27.

Intelligence has been received here last night that Major-General Buller with his whole force was within a day's march of Gakdul. No casualties occurred on the march. All the sick and wounded were doing well. They are expected to arrive here next week.

Berne, Feb. 27.

The Federal Council has come to a decision on the Anarchist question. It will not, however, yet be made known, as information has been received by the Council conpromising several Swiss subjects. The Council is in possession of the complete plan of the plot to blow up the Federal Palace by dynamite, all the details of which were arranged with cold-blooded precision by the conspirators. Three Anarchists were apprehended here last night, bringing up to twenty the total number of arrests. There are several women among the prisoners.

Zurich, Feb. 27.

Several Anarchist arrests have been made here and at St. Gallen.

A telegram from Adelaide to the *British Australasian* says:—"The Australasian colonies are generally aggrieved at the answer given to their offers of troops, and to the preference shown to the offer from New South Wales. This is more especially the case because it is stated that the other colonial forces could have arrived at Souakim with equal promptitude. The delay in receiving any definite reply to the offers made, and its divergence from the views expressed in the House of Lords by Lord Derby and the Duke of Cambridge, are greatly criticised. Even Western Australia was ready to contribute her quota." The preparations for the embarkation of the New South Wales force are most active. A grand review will be held on Saturday, and the departure is fixed for Tuesday next.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords Lord Camperdown resumed the debate on the Vote of Censure, and said that if the Government could not announce a clear and distinct policy he should vote for Lord Salisbury's resolution. Lord Carnarvon, in the course of a magnificent speech, said that he would vote for the resolution if only on the ground of the Ministerial abandonment of General Gordon. He characterised their conduct to General Gordon as shameful and dishonest to the Crown and the country.

Lord Kimberley and Lord Granville having spoken on behalf of the Government,

Lord Salisbury rose at eleven o'clock to deliver his reply, in the course of which he took occasion to deny a statement of Lord Granville's to the effect that Lord Beaconsfield had declined Prince Bismarck's suggestion that England should annex Egypt. Adverting to the hesitation of the Government last summer in choosing between the Souakim and Nile routes to Khartoum, the noble Marquis created much amusement by comparing their vacillation to the conduct of an old woman who was killed in crossing the road because she wasted time in hesitating whether to avoid an omnibus in one direction or a cab in the other. At a quarter before twelve the House divided, with the following result:—

For Lord Salisbury's motion ...	189
Against it	68
Conservative majority ...	121

In the House of Commons the debate on the Vote of Censure was concluded. At half-past one o'clock this morning the Division was taken, with this result:—

For Sir Stafford Northcote's motion ...	288
Against it	302
Government majority ...	14

An appalling accident occurred on Thursday afternoon at the School of Gunnery, Shoeburyness. An experimental party, together with some members of the Ordnance Committee of the War Office, were practising with sensitive fuses, and while screwing one of these into a nine-inch shell the latter exploded with most disastrous results. Gunner Allen was killed on the spot. Colonel Fox-Strangways, Commandant of the School of Gunnery, had one foot blown off and his leg shattered. Colonel Lyon, of the Ordnance Committee, had both legs blown off just below the thigh. Captain G. Adams, second experimental officer, had both legs blown off and his face terribly mutilated, and Warrant Officer Daykin had one leg blown off from the thigh. Gunner Underwood had one leg blown off, and another gunner was wounded severely. Mr. Rance, a civilian, of Woolwich, was severely wounded in the leg, while Captain Lowe and others had narrow escapes. Major Buller, who was 300 yards away, was struck by a portion of the shell and rendered insensible, but his squad-book was probably the means of saving his life. Captain Adams and Warrant Officer Daykin subsequently died of their wounds. Several eminent surgeons left London in the evening by special train, and, on arrival at the camp of the School of Gunnery, held a consultation with the local surgeons. After consultation, it was deemed necessary, in the cases of Colonel Fox-Strangways and Colonel Lyon to amputate both legs above knee. The operations were accomplished under the care of Sir William McCormack. Colonel Fox-Strangways, however, succumbed, from exhaustion, shortly before seven o'clock yesterday morning; and Colonel Lyon at ten minutes past eight. Gunner Underwood also died yesterday morning. All the officers were well known in the service, and belonged to the first rank of scientific military experts.

SOCIETY.

A marriage is arranged between Deputy Surgeon-General Theobald Ringer, Bengal Army (retired), son of the late William Ringer, Esq., of Laugharne, Carmarthenshire, and Frederica Adela, eldest daughter of the Rev. Henry Rich, of Great Alne, Warwickshire.

Also between Major Poore, R.M.A., Equerry to the Duke of Edinburgh, and Lady Harriot Grimston, eldest daughter of the Earl of Verulam.

Also between Mr. William Hines, her Majesty's Naval Depôt, Trincomalee, and Miss Rich, eldest daughter of Colonel Rich, R.E., 17, Queen's-gate-terrace, Hyde Park.

The wedding of Princess Marie, sister of the Duchess of Connaught, to Prince Albert of Saxe-Altenburg will take place at Berlin soon after Easter. It will be strictly private, and will not be held in the Royal Castle, but at the palace of the bride's father, the Red Prince, Frederick Charles.

The marriage is announced of Duke Leopold Torlonia, Pro-Syndic of Rome, with the Princess Lætitia Bonaparte, daughter of Prince Napoleon and of Princess Clotilde of Savoy.

A fashionable congregation assembled at St. Peter's Church, Eaton-square, on Wednesday, on the occasion of the marriage of Mr. George William Buchanan, youngest son of the late Right Hon. Sir Andrew Buchanan, Bart., G.C.B., with the Lady Georgina Meriel Bathurst, eldest daughter of Earl Bathurst. The ceremony took place, by special licence, at half-past one o'clock. Among the relatives and friends present on the occasion were Countess Bathurst and Lady Evelyn Bathurst, Earl Stanhope, Lord and Lady Sudeley, Lord Apsley and Hon. Lancelot and Hon. Allen Bathurst, Lord and Lady Windsor, Lady Victoria Fuller, Lady de Saumarez and Hon. Miss de Saumarez, Lady Maria Ponsonby and Misses Ponsonby (2), Hon. Wm. Lowther, M.P., and Misses Lowther (2), Lady Cowell Stepney and Miss Stepney, Hon. Arthur and Mrs. Saumarez, Hon. Kenneth Howard, Sir James Buchanan, Sir Baldwin Leighton, M.P., &c. Mr. Ralph Paget attended the bridegroom as best man. The bride, who was conducted to the chancel by her father, was followed by five bridesmaids. The bride was attired in white satin, the train being long and plain, and the petticoat draped with Brussels lace, caught up on one side with loops and ends of satin, terminating with pearl tassels; the bodice was trimmed with lace and orange blossoms. She wore a wreath of orange blossoms and Brussels lace veil, and carried a large bouquet. The bridesmaids, three of whom were little children, were prettily dressed in skirts of cream Valenciennes lace, with bodices and drapery of cream nun's veiling; the collars and cuffs were of geranium red velvet, with bows of which the drapery was looped up, and they had gathered toques of the same velvet. Each wore a necklace of gold coins, the bridegroom's gift, and carried a large bouquet of snowdrops. Countess Bathurst, the mother of the bride, was in slate-grey brocade and bonnet to harmonise. Lady Stepney, aunt of the bride, was dressed in a plush polonaise of the palest shade of grey, bordered with silver-grey marabout, and opening over a skirt of cashmere of the same colour, and wore a bonnet of grey plush with feather aigrette in a slightly deeper shade. The Rev. Frederick J. Ponsonby, M.A., vicar of St. Mary Magdalen, Munster-square, officiated, assisted by the Rev. John Storrs, M.A., vicar of St. Peter's, Earl Bathurst giving his daughter away. The ceremony over, the wedding party proceeded to Earl and Countess Bathurst's residence in Grosvenor-place, where the breakfast was given, after which the newly-wedded couple took their departure, amidst the usual shower of rice and old slippers, for Fetcham Park, Mr. Barnard Hankey's residence in Surrey.

On Saturday last, at St. Peter's Church, Eaton-square, was solemnised the marriage of Mr. Louis Guy Scott, son of the late Colonel the Hon. Charles Grantham Scott, with Miss Inna Georgiana Milles, only daughter of the late Colonel the Hon. Lewis Watson Milles, Rifle Brigade, and niece of Earl Sondes. Mr. Cecil Fane acted as best man to the bridegroom, and there were four bridesmaids. The bride, who was conducted to the chancel by her brother, Mr. Lewis G. W. Milles, by whom she was afterwards given away, was attired in white satin duchesse, trimmed with old lace, and over a wreath of orange blossoms a Brussels lace veil. The four bridesmaids wore dresses of pale blue satin merveilleux and coffee-coloured lace, the bodice and skirt being of satin, the latter flounced and draped with lace. The two elder ladies wore lace bonnets trimmed with pale blue ribbon and birds, and the younger ones had small Tam-o'-Shanter hats of satin. The Earl and Countess of Courtown, Mr. and Hon. Mrs. Fellowes, Mrs. Grantham Scott, and Mr. and Hon. Mrs. Frederick Goulburn were amongst those present at the ceremony. The Hon. and Rev. Hugh W. Mostyn, M.A., officiated, assisted by the Rev. Oswald P. Yerburgh, of St. Peter's.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Tweeddale gave a ball last week at Yester House, Haddingtonshire, in honour of the birth of a son and heir. Previous to the ball a deputation of the principal tenants presented an antique silver jug and salver to the youthful Earl of Gifford. The ball began at ten o'clock, and at twelve supper was served in the ballroom, about two hundred guests sitting down at the same time. The house party consisted of Lady Susan and Miss Grant Suttie, Captain and Mrs. Baird Hay, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart. Mr. H. J. Trotter, Mr. and Miss Meuries, Misses Harford, Captain Tipping, and Mr. Birkbeck (Royal Scots), Mr. Haldane (92nd Highlanders), Mr. Pitman, and Mr. Bartolacci. From Biel House Miss Nisbet Hamilton and a large party were present.

Sir Arthur D. Hayter, M.P., and Lady Hayter entertained at dinner, at their house in Grosvenor-square, last Saturday, the French Ambassador and Mdme. Waddington, the Earl and Countess of Dalhousie, Lord Stanhope, Lady Reay, Lady Charles Beresford, the Hon. G. N. Curzon, the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, M.P., and Mrs. and Miss Goschen, the Right Hon. G. O. Trevelyan, M.P., and Mrs. Trevelyan, Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Hope, Mr. Ferguson, M.P., of Novar, Mr. Wodehouse, M.P., and Mr. G. M. Smalley.

GREAT BRITAIN AND GERMANY.

A Blue Book just issued includes the recent negotiations between the British and German Governments on colonial annexations. Sir Edward Malet, writing on Jan. 24, describes a conversation with Prince Bismarck on the present political estrangement between Germany and England. The Prince said that at every point at which Germany had endeavoured to found a colony England had closed in, making new acquisitions, so as to restrict Germany's power of expansion. Having explained the German annexation in New Guinea by the fact that he believed himself free to annex what we had not annexed, Prince Bismarck read to Sir Edward Malet a despatch to Count Münster dated the 5th of last May.

It stated the great importance which the Prince attached to the colonial question, and also to the friendship of Germany and England. In the commencement of German colonial enterprise England might render signal service to Germany, and for such service Germany would use her best endeavours in England's behalf in questions affecting her interests nearer home. It pressed these considerations with arguments to show the mutual advantage which such an understanding would produce. Count Münster was to say if it could not be effected the result would be that Germany would seek from France the assistance which she had failed to obtain from England, and would draw closer to her on the same lines on which she now endeavoured to meet England. Prince Bismarck went on to say that, not being satisfied with the result, and attributing it in part to the Ambassador not having stated the points with precision, he sent his son, Count Herbert Bismarck, to England, in the hope that he might succeed where Count Münster had failed; but that he, unfortunately, had only succeeded in obtaining those general friendly assurances of goodwill which were of little value in the face of subsequent occurrences.

Pressed to state his wishes on the subject, Prince Bismarck said the understanding arrived at with France in consequence of his failure to come to one with us put it out of his power to take up the question now, as he had expounded it to us in May. Lord Granville, replying on the 7th inst., said her Majesty's Government would deeply regret that Prince Bismarck should consider that there was anything which approached to a political estrangement between the two countries.

In their opinion, the views of their policy and action expressed by Prince Bismarck and of the present situation were not warranted by the real facts of the case; adding that Prince Bismarck's despatch of May 5 was never communicated to him, and that it was not until the announcement that the German flag had been hoisted at Angra Pequena that her Majesty's Government were made positively aware of the intention of the German Government to found a territorial protectorate. He points out that a field was open to Germany, both in the east and the west, without entrenching on the legitimate sphere of action of Great Britain. But Her Majesty's Government would have been unmindful of their duties had they neglected to place under the protection of the British flag territories contiguous to British Colonies, the occupation of which by any other Power would seriously prejudice British interests.

On the same day (February 7) Lord Granville addressed a Note in answer to Count Münster's protest against the extension of the Queen's protectorate in New Guinea from East Cape to the Gulf of Huon, on the ground that, in the opinion of the German Government, their proclamation of sovereignty over the Northern coast included the district in question.

Lord Granville contends that there was a clear understanding arrived at between the two Powers in September last that neither of them should take any step involving the annexation of any portion of the still unoccupied coasts of New Guinea without a previous agreement by means of a Commission, or of diplomatic negotiations. But the sudden establishment of the German protectorate over a portion of the coast of New Guinea from which Her Majesty's Government had withdrawn, and over the vast islands lying off the north-east coast of New Guinea, without any previous understanding with Her Majesty's Government, entirely altered the position, and Her Majesty's Government considered that they were fully entitled to resume their liberty of action as regards the extension of their protectorate up to the German boundary.

On the 18th inst., Lord Derby writes to the Governor of New Zealand, instructing him to forward, by first opportunity, to the Consul at Samoa directions "not to give any countenance or support to any movement for annexation to Great Britain."

The Hon. R. H. Meade, Assistant Under-Secretary at the Colonial Office, had a conversation with Prince Bismarck on the 24th of December, extending over an hour. The Prince stated that for months past he had been urged to annex the north coast of New Guinea; that he had not precisely ordered the flag to be hoisted on this occasion; but that he had generally replied to the request for protection that, where German trade was established in a place where there was no foreign jurisdiction, he would afford support; and that, in consequence, the flag had been hoisted on the north coast of New Guinea, and on hearing that England had taken the south coast he considered that the action could not be open to any objection whatever. Mr. Meade adds:—

"I told him that the result of his hoisting the flag on New Guinea would have a deplorable effect in Australia; that we had announced to him our intention to declare a protectorate up to a certain point in New Guinea, and that I considered that we were entitled to rest assured that, pending our negotiations with him, Germany would not take possession of the most important portion of the territory in question. . . . He then said that we had immense possessions in that part of the world, that we already had more land than we could colonise for years to come, that our navy was strong enough to protect those possessions, and that it was not worthy of us to grudge Germany a settlement on the coast of New Guinea separated from Australia by the islands and the south shore which we had taken. . . . The Prince then argued that this strip of New Guinea was very small, and of little value to England." Mr. Meade said that it included the Maclay coast, in which we were specially interested, and asked him whether Germany would think of annexing land, with or without value, which she had just proposed should form a subject of special negotiation. Prince Bismarck seemed displeased at this question, and rather sharply replied that that sort of question should be treated on general grounds of policy. "Up to two years ago he had done everything he could to facilitate English policy in Egypt and elsewhere, but for some time past he has been treated in a different manner by England, whose actions do not accord with her professions."

RESERVATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Canon Carter, in a letter to a contemporary, says the Report of the Upper House of the Convocation of Canterbury on the Reservation of the Blessed Sacrament will have caused the gravest anxiety to very many, specially those who are conversant with the necessities of our more populous parishes, and expresses a hope that it may be still open to reconsideration; the more so because the rapidity with which it was drawn up gave no time for any expression of feeling from those most directly concerned in the matter, and no opportunity for stating the results of experience. He then dwells on the extreme difficulty of providing reverent Celebrations in the close and crowded chambers of the poor, and says that many dying persons and chronic sufferers are unable to bear the full service for the "Communion of the Sick." Archbishop Longley, when Bishop of Ripon, approved of reservation for the sick in Leeds, and the late Bishop of Oxford sanctioned it in Oxford. That was, indeed, at a time when the cholera prevailed. But in our great city parishes and in hospitals, even in ordinary times, a similar necessity exists. Canon Carter thinks that Reservation may on these grounds justly be claimed, and therefore that it ought to be allowed under proper regulations.

Alluding to Article XXVIII. Mr. Carter holds it to be impossible that it could have been intended to touch the Reservation for the sick and dying, because Queen Elizabeth's Latin Prayer-Book expressly provided for Reservation at a time when the said Article was in force. As to the rubric at the end of the Communion Service, which was inserted at the instance of Bishop Cosin, the object with which it was enacted is clearly stated by Cosin himself. Mr. Carter proves from Cosin's own words that the rubric was meant to prevent the Puritanically-minded clergy from profaning the Holy Sacrament by taking It "home to their own houses," and from these eating and drinking the same "with their common meats." Cosin adds that "the Roman Catholics take occasion hereby to lay this negligence and calumny upon the Church of England. That the rubric could not have aimed at prohibiting Reservation for the sick further seems evident from the fact that Cosin helped Archbishop Laud in the preparation of the Scotch Office, which orders Reservation. Could that have been provided for Scotland which at the same time was forbidden to England? Finally, the Canon observes that it is perfectly clear that Reservation for the sick was universally in use as a primitive custom, and the Church of England has ever taken its stand on appeal to primitive use.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

NEW ACROSTIC RULES.

In future, instead of the Quarterly Prizes, a Prize of One Guinea will be given every month for the successful solution of the Acrostics that appear in the *John Bull*.

The first monthly competition will include the Acrostics that are given on February 21st, February 28th, March 7th, March 14th, March 21st, and March 28th.

At the end of the month, in case competitors tie, they will proceed to guess off the ties, being debarred from prize-winning in the fresh monthly competition so long as they are engaged in contesting the ties.

No competitor can gain more than two Monthly Prizes in the course of the year.

All solutions must be forwarded not later than the Monday week following the appearance of the Acrostic, addressed to the Acrostic Editor of the *John Bull*, 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, E.C., and signed by a pseudonym of not inordinate length.

Alternatives to the number of three are allowed.

All solutions received are acknowledged, whether correct or not.

ANSWER TO DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 13.

(Thirty-sixth Quarter.)

1. C haf F
2. L am A
3. O lympi C
4. C ottl E
5. K nive S

Light 4.—*Vide* De Quincey. Light 5.—Ezra, ch. 1, v. 9.

Answers have been received from Dunstan, Paddy, L.E.L., B.H.S., Sleepy, Pansy, Two Countesses, Sociable, Felix, Noryb, Pandora, Persevere, Work, Kellie, Land o' Nod, Hadji, Viz, Seedy, The Owl, Iris, Zyx, Asphodel, Hampton Courtier, Pegasus, Peewit, Acme, and M.A.F.B.

Pewit.—The use of an adjective instead of an adverb is common enough colloquially, though of course incorrect. To what New Guinea Treaty do you refer? Who were the contracting parties? When and where was it concluded? And what were its provisions?

Pegasus and Etak.—The alternatives you defend cannot be accepted.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 2.

(First Month, Tenth Year.)

Prem.

The light of Hope no longer sheds her ray,
To serve as beacon on the toilsome way.

1.

Here spicy breezes blow, and legends tell
That Adam left his footprint when he fell.

2.

To her a soul a doubtless blessing proved,
The haughty rival winning him she loved.

3.

"Oh! the gallant fisher's life, it is the best of any,
'Tis full of pleasures, void of strife, and 'tis beloved by many."

4.

Seek in the land of Islam's faith and bulbul's song
This dainty morsel, for which gourmands long.

5.

A prefix erst which gave undying fame,
But now a band of ruffians have assumed the name.

6.

The brain-sick lady seeks her grief to hide,
And wanders here by Adriatic tide. MARS.

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